

Bomb explodes in Baghdad; 1 killed

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb exploded near a hotel in downtown Baghdad on Saturday, killing one person who was believed to be carrying it when it exploded, the state-run Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the explosion occurred at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT) close to the Baghdad Hotel on Abu Nawwas street. It said the bomb was estimated to consist of two to three kilograms of explosives. The agency gave no further details. The attack was the second fatal bomb blast in the Iraqi capital reported within two weeks. On Oct. 30, a bomb exploded outside a Baghdad church, killing three police officers and the person who discovered it. On Oct. 19, one man was killed and five were wounded when a bomb exploded in the mosque at Baghdad's Religious Affairs Ministry. In the past, the government generally has blamed "agents hired by the enemies of Iraq" for such attacks. This is considered to be a reference to Kurdish separatists or Iranian-linked rebels who launched ill-fated revolts against the Baghdad regime immediately after the Gulf war. There have been a string of bombings over the last two years.

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Princess Basma to present plan of action for women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma will next week present the United Nations with a plan of action for the advancement of Arab women as adopted by a five-day Arab regional preparatory meeting for the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing next year. A spokesperson for the Princess said the plan will be handed to the U.N. Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA). The plan, which is partly based on international covenants related to human rights and on social, cultural and religious values prevalent in the Arab region, includes objectives and policies and measures designed to enable women to exercise their rights to assume responsibility within a global platform of action that emphasizes the elimination of obstacles to the full integration of women in society, the spokesperson said.

New details said emerging in probe into Argentine blast

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Two new, unidentified witnesses have testified in the investigation into the July 18 car bomb attack that killed 95 people and injured 250 at a Jewish association headquarters here, officials said Saturday. Judge Juan Galeano, who is leading the probe, interviewed the two individuals this week, and police and court sources said their testimony would be crucial to the case. The sources refused to give any more details about the new witnesses, but reports may be cause for some optimism in an investigation that appeared to have hit a wall. A high-profile opposition lawmaker called on the government Tuesday to make public the results of its probe into the blast, slammimg it for making little headway.

J.N. to quit aidos, Kismayu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — United Nations troops based in Somalia will leave the central town of Baidoa and Kismayu in the south by the end of this month, U.N. officials said here Saturday. In an internal document, U.N. officials recommended that the world body's special agencies and humanitarian groups withdraw their personnel next week from the towns as a precaution. The recommendation comes amid fears a warfare could break out as a control of ports such as Baidoa and Kismayu, including that of the capital Mogadishu, when the U.N. troops leave. The U.N. troops are in India, which have along with Pakistan have provided a large contingent to the U.N. mission in Somalia, led by Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Malaysia.

Egypt seeks laghreb union membership

UNITED STATES (R) — Egypt on Saturday asked to join the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the five-nation union linking North African countries, Algerian state radio said. It said the request was made by Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who was in Algeria attending an AMU ministerial council. "AMU has officially asked that Egypt become a member of the Arab Maghreb Union," a radio quoted Algeria's Foreign Minister Mohammed Lah Dendbi as saying. The meeting on Saturday in the Algerian capital was the AMU's 16th session since it was created as a regional grouping to promote cooperation between Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Egyptian minister attended Saturday's meeting for the first time as an observer.

Jordan Times

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GCC urged to double defence efforts

RIYADH (AP) — Defence ministers of the Saudi Arabian-led group of Gulf Arab countries were urged Saturday to intensify efforts to develop a deterrent collective force that could face up to threats such as Iraq's recent military buildup. "Existing and latent regional challenges and dangers make it incumbent that we all double efforts to continue building the collective defence capabilities of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states," said the council's secretary-general, Fahim Al Qassbi. Mr. Qassbi spoke at the opening of a two-day meeting of Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister, with his counterparts from Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The Iraqi troop mobilisation last month was a threat to Kuwait and the stability and security of the region and "affirmed anew the importance of bolstering defence and security cooperation" for the alliance, Mr. Qassbi said.

King, Spanish monarch discuss peace, Jordan-Spain relations

HM reaffirms quest for total peace, stand on Jerusalem
Juan Carlos addresses Parliament today
Talks focus on enhancing cooperation

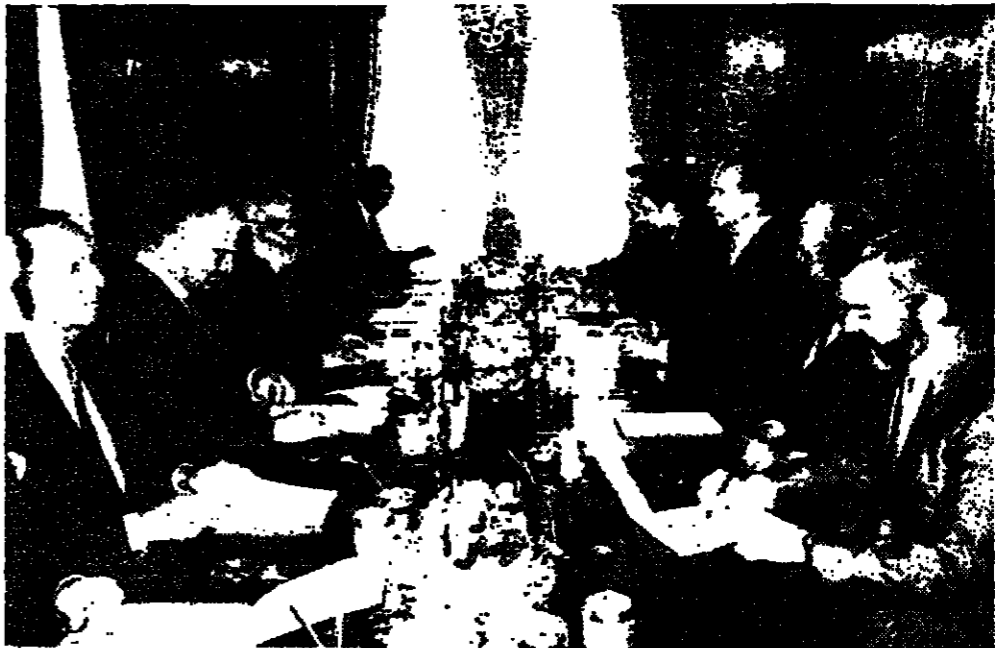
AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and King Juan Carlos of Spain on Saturday held talks and stressed the need to enhance Jordanian-Spanish cooperation in economic, scientific, cultural and tourism fields. At the meeting, held in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior Jordanian and Spanish officials, King Hussein voiced Jordan's pride in the visit of the Spanish monarch, the first by a foreign head of state since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Wadi Araba on Oct. 26, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. King Hussein also lauded Europe's role, and named Spain, in supporting the Middle East peace process. King Hussein said the signing of the treaty was meant to serve the interests of Jordan and its people. He expressed hope that

peace negotiations on other Arab-Israeli tracks would develop to have a comprehensive peace in the region, stressing that he will continue to work hard to achieve that end. King Hussein also reiterated Jordan's commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people until it regains its legitimate rights on the basis of international legitimacy. King Hussein also renewed Jordan's pledge to hand over control of Muslim shrines in Jerusalem to the Palestinians once they reach an accord with Israel on the final status of the Holy City. The King told King Juan Carlos that Jordan would "continue administering the sites until the Palestinian people and their representatives recover sovereignty over their land." Meanwhile, Jordan would maintain custody of the sites

"in the interests of the Arab World," he said. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty recognised Jordan's "historic role" in administering East Jerusalem's Islamic shrines. Under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles signed in Washington last year, talks on Jerusalem are to start by May 1996. Jordan has already handed over controls of Islamic sites across the West Bank to the Palestinians. The two Kings discussed ways to boost Jordanian-Spanish trade and ease Jordan's debt to Spain, estimated at \$92 million, officials said. Most of the debt is due to the purchase of 15 Spanish C-101 training aircraft. King Juan Carlos, who is scheduled to address a joint session of the two Houses of the Jordanian Parliament on Sunday, is expected to

announce the write-off of Jordan's \$2 million debts to Spain, sources said. There was no independent confirmation, but officials have said that Spain was very favourable to Jordan's efforts to restructure its economy and achieve self-reliance and to the Kingdom's quest for debt relief. The meeting of the two Kings was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasbi, the King's military secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, who is head of the honour delegation accompanying the Spanish monarch during his visit, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan. King Juan Carlos, who arrived here on Friday, was

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Jordan and Spanish delegations headed by His Majesty King Hussein and King Juan Carlos of Spain hold talks Saturday (Petra Photo)

Prince Hassan stresses need to improve people's lives

Amman roundtable focuses on human dimension of the Mideast peace process

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday emphasised the importance of focusing on efforts to ensure that the people enjoy the fruits of peace in terms of quality of life now that peace is being restored to the Middle East, a region best known so far for violence, conflicts and war. "The question we must now address is how to bring about peace between people at all levels," the Crown Prince said in an address at a two-day roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process."

The Crown Prince, chairman of the Institute of Di-

plomacy which organised the gathering, underlined the need for macroeconomic stability and the implementation of the "kind of legal, regulatory, administrative and fiscal reforms conducive to growth" to rebuild the economies of the Middle East shattered by five decades of Arab-Israeli conflict. Focusing on population, education, employment and income, areas which directly affect human lives, Prince Hassan highlighted the need to address demographic factors, characterised in the Arab World by a "dangerously high growth rate," the importance of education for economic and human development, the need to increase investment levels to

generate growth and in turn provide adequate job opportunities and the need to lessen income disparities within the region and between it and the developed world. The Amman roundtable, attended by international statesmen, diplomats and experts on various aspects of human development, Middle East politics and economy, is the first major effort at identifying the priorities of the region that should go hand in hand with peace agreements among the Arabs and Israelis and aimed at ensuring that peace is not only made in treaties and accords but also makes a difference to people's life.

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Customs duties on cars slashed

Tariffs on many consumer items also reduced

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Saturday announced reductions of 27 per cent to 44 per cent in customs duties on imported passenger vehicles and total exemptions for cargo transport vehicles. A rough estimate showed that market prices for an average car would go down by around 30 per cent following the reductions. The announcement ended several months of uncertainty in the automobile market in the Kingdom. Car dealers have been complaining of a major slump in sales as potential buyers were awaiting the widely expected cuts in customs duties, although government officials had been consistently denying any such plans. It was not immediately clear whether the government was planning any measure to address the complaints of many car owners that the market value of their vehicles plunged as a result of the reduction and that the authorities should offer them tax breaks to make up for their "losses."

The Council of Ministers also endorsed an across-the-board slashing of customs duties on hundreds of items, including foodstuffs, clothing, furnishings, mineral water, marble and building material etc. The reductions, which brought to 50 per cent the customs duties on most items, meant a reversal of an increase that was imposed in the late 1980s to rationalise imports when the Kingdom

faced major economic problems resulting from more than \$8 billion in foreign debts. On the internal front, the cuts meant a slashing of market prices between 20 and 30 per cent if importers and traders were to reflect the reductions on their prices. On the external front, the reductions meant that Jordan was largely in line with the requirements of entry to international trade agreements. All reductions in the customs duties take effect as soon as the regulations are published in the official gazette. The latest gazette is expected to be released today (Sunday) and will contain the new regulations. Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, addressing a press conference, said the reductions come ahead of an expected growth in the transport sector following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and aim at enabling citizens to own cars at reasonable prices. Jordan carried some of the highest rates of customs duties on cars, going as high as 320 per cent for cars with an engine capacity of more than 3,000 cc. The reductions, as announced by Mr. Gammoh, fell short of meeting a call by the U.S. Commerce Department that the basis for calculating customs duties on automobiles should be the factory price rather than engine sizes. However, the total exemption from customs duties offered to trucks and other cargo vehicles appeared to meet the American demand

half way since this could result in increased Jordanian imports of such vehicles from the United States. Most American-made passenger vehicles have large engine sizes although their factory prices were compatible with smaller Japanese-made cars. But the U.S.-made cars are costlier in the Jordanian market if only because of the higher customs duties levied on the basis of their engine sizes. The slashing of customs duties were defined by Mr. Gammoh as under (sales tax with a ceiling of 20 per cent and import licence fee of eight per cent remain unchanged): Cars and pick-up trucks: Engine size less than 1,500 cc — 70 per cent instead of 125 per cent (44 per cent cut in real terms). Engine size over 1,500 cc but less than 2,000 cc — 100 per cent instead of 140 per cent (28.5 per cent cut in real terms). Engine size over 2,000 cc but less than 2,500 cc — 130 per cent instead of 190 per cent (31.5 per cent cut in real terms). Engine size over 2,500 cc but less than 3,000 cc — 160 per cent instead of 220 per cent (27.2 per cent cut in real terms). Engine size over 3,000 cc — 200 per cent instead of 320 per cent (37.5 per cent cut in real terms). Cargo transport vehicles will be exempted totally from customs duties, but the importers have to pay around 25 per cent (17 per cent as sales tax and eight per cent as import licence fees).

Customs duties on automobile chassis were reduced from 70 per cent to 10 per cent and on spare parts from 30 per cent to 10 per cent. Vehicles for the physically handicapped will pay 30 per cent customs duties instead of 50 per cent, and vehicles used by the totally disabled would enjoy total exemption, Mr. Gammoh told the press. The new regulations, approved by the Council of Ministers on Saturday, also reduce customs duties on used cars of not more than five years old; a discount of 10 per cent will be applied for the first three years and five per cent for the next two years. Mr. Gammoh said nearly 4,500 cars which are in Jordan under temporary entry permits should be locally registered after payment of the required customs duties or be taken out of the country within the legally specified periods (as set upon their entry into the Kingdom). The reduced rates tally largely with a recommendation made by the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Customs which conducted a market study upon instructions from the Prime Minister. Jordan was dutybound to reduce customs duties on automobiles since one of the preconditions of the Kingdom joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or the World Trade Organisation is a 55 to 60 per cent ceiling on import tariffs. Jordan cannot seek special arrangements in this context since it does not manufacture automobiles.

PLO arrests militants, seeks settlements moved

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN police arrested over 100 members of the militant Islamic Jihad group in response to its suicide bombing attack on Israeli soldiers but the Palestine National Authority (PNA) also urged Israel on Saturday to remove all its settlements in Gaza. Palestinian sources said police arrested 115 members of Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for Friday's attack on a checkpoint to Netzarim settlement in which three Israeli soldiers were killed and 12 people wounded. They said many activists resisted arrest by shooting at police but no casualties were reported in Gaza hospitals. Most Islamic Jihad leaders had gone into hiding, the sources added. A local reporter said Palestinian police had raided a mosque in Gaza looking for Islamic Jihad militants and had broken up a mourning ceremony for the suicide

bomber, Hisham Hamad, at his family home on Saturday morning. Israeli authorities still hold the remains of the bomber whose funeral may take place on Sunday. Members of the PNA confirmed that its leader, Yasser Arafat, had ordered the crackdown and called on Israel to dismantle the 20 settlements it maintains in the Gaza Strip, particularly Netzarim. "Our position has been clear always that these settlements should be removed," Nabil Shaath, who holds the planning portfolio, said after the authority's weekly meeting in Gaza. Netzarim has been a sore point. We would like to see the end of the settlement there, but this doesn't in any way reduce our responsibility to guard the safety and security of everybody until a decision is taken in a legal fashion," he said. Yasser Abed Rabbo, PLO official in charge of information and culture, said the

issue of Netzarim needed to be resolved in talks between the Palestinians and Israel. "The settlement represents a time-bomb and we think in order to overcome many difficulties on the security level, this issue should be resolved and resolved soon," he said. Under the peace deal for limited Palestinian self-rule signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation last year, Jewish settlements in Gaza were to remain in place. But several dovish Israeli ministers have openly called for the evacuation of Netzarim. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, speaking after the arrests of the suspected militants, said Israel must provide support to Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority. "We are dealing with a very dangerous underground which more and more has suicide attackers within its ranks. The problem is... what to demand in detail from the

(Continued on page 7)

PNA-Islamist confrontation could trigger Palestinian civil war

By Lamis E. Andoni

THE ACT of the young member from Islamic Jihad who blew himself up along with 3 Israeli soldiers in a suicide attack on Friday and the reaction of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to it have again raised fears of a Palestinian civil war breaking out in the autonomous areas and the rest of the occupied territories. By Saturday morning Palestinian security forces rounded up hundreds of suspected Islamic Jihad supporters or activists in a yet another, probably futile, attempt to stem attacks against Israel. The crackdown deepened the

rift in the seat of the interim Palestinian autonomy, raising the spectre of a complete showdown between the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Islamist opposition, represented by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The extent of the friction will largely hinge on the PNA security measures: If, under Israeli pressure, the PNA decides to launch an all out crackdown, then prospects for tension exploding into clashes in a place swarming with machineguns and all kinds of weapons are great. Most probably, the PNA security departments will confine their operations to brief arrests and interroga-

tions that will provoke but will place Gazans on the edge again. The fact the target is Islamic Jihad, the smallest effective opposition group, lessens the danger of an all out explosion, but does not preclude it. Since many Palestinians, regardless of their affiliations, are already frustrated by the PNA's perceived eagerness to appease the Israelis coupled with its failure to protect Palestinians. It is doubtless, however, that the meeting two weeks ago between PNA and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Arafat and the leaders from Hamas and Islamic Jihad

was crucial in containing or at least postponing what seemed to be then an imminent eruption of Palestinian civil strife. ANALYSIS Gazans, PNA members and eyewitnesses still cannot comprehend the unprecedented show of resentment and opposition to Mr. Arafat when he tried to join the funeral of a leading Islamic Jihad activist, Hani Abed, who Palestinians believe was assassinated by Israeli agents. Thousands of angry mourners booed Mr. Arafat, accusing him of working for the Israelis. "You

do not represent the Palestinian people," mourners shouted in an unprecedented rejection of Mr. Arafat's leadership. A shocked Arafat nevertheless ordered his security not to react violently to the outraged mourners. Hamas and Islamic Jihad gave the PNA leader credit for defusing the high tension. But the tension lingered throughout the day as Gazans were mostly waiting for the spark. Many expected Mr. Arafat to be preparing for a crackdown or a showdown that he had already believed that Hamas and Jihad were seeking or trying to trigger. Consequently, when

Hamas and Islamic leaders Mahmoud Al Zahar and Abdullah Shami went to Mr. Arafat's beachfront office late that evening, Gazans sighed with relief. The short, but significant meeting signalled that all three parties were trying to avoid a civil strife. Dr. Zahar and Mr. Shami's apology for what happened at the Abed funeral reflected an already made decision by their movements not to trigger a confrontation with the PNA. It also was a crucial signal to their supporters to calm down. For Mr. Arafat, the meeting had another significance: Gradually the

opposition movements are having to deal with him as the head of the authority, which was in itself a gain from his viewpoint. But the suicide bomber has cast doubt on the emerging coexistence between Jihad and the PNA, especially that the attack was carried inside the Gaza Strip directly challenging and embarrassing Mr. Arafat. During their meeting with Mr. Arafat, Dr. Zahar and Mr. Shami were reported to have assured him that they wanted to confine the confrontation to Israeli occupation. There was

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Moscow scores diplomatic victory

By Timothy Heritage
Reuter

MOSCOW — Russia has scored a diplomatic triumph by persuading Iraq to recognise Kuwait and further boosted its efforts to re-establish itself as a major player in international diplomacy.

Months of mediation with Iraq and Kuwait by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev ended in success with Iraq's recognition of Kuwait on Thursday, despite suspicion over its involvement from other countries including the United States.

Russia hopes Iraq's decision will prompt the United Nations to ease sanctions on Baghdad, eventually enabling the country to repay its large debt to Moscow.

But the negotiations with Iraq also signalled Moscow's determination to regain the influence it had on the world stage before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"The international climate will radically change for the better after this turn of events," Mr. Kozyrev said after leaving Baghdad late on Thursday, trumpeting Russia's success.

Pressing the U.N. to ease sanctions on Iraq, he was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying: "Russia will work so that the U.N. Security Council will at its next session react adequately to the real, strong political step taken by Iraq."

The cautious reaction of some other countries, and the scepticism of the United States, raise doubts that the U.N. will respond quickly to Russia's demands.

The Security Council is due to hold a regular review of sanctions on Monday. But an easing of sanctions are not on the agenda until requirements on weapons of mass destruction are completed, a process expected to take at least six months.

Even Mr. Kozyrev acknowledged that lifting an oil embargo and other sanctions would be a long process.

But initial reactions in Russia suggested Mr. Kozyrev's efforts would be viewed at home as a major success.

"The efforts of President (Boris) Yeltsin and the Russian foreign ministry, crowned by success, bear witness that today our diplomacy has a worthy place in the world," Viktor Usdinov, a deputy in the Duma or lower house of parliament, said.

Iraqis sceptical over lifting of sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqis have welcomed their government's decision to recognise Kuwait, but many feared Washington would still block moves to lift the crippling U.N. sanctions imposed after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of the oil-rich emirate.

"The damned Americans will continue opposing the lifting of the embargo and set new unbearable conditions," said a civil servant, Mohammad Abu Saleh.

"Recognition was inevitable, but I very much doubt there can be any change at the U.N. Security Council in the near future."

The sanctions have sent inflation spiralling and caused chronic shortages of food and medicines.

Iraqi state radio and television Thursday broadcast the full text of the recognition and reported reactions to it, notably from the United

The aim of boosting Russia's place in world diplomacy has been a strong feature of foreign policy in recent months.

The success in Iraq, an ally and major recipient of arms from Moscow in Soviet times, can be expected to increase Russia's standing in the Middle East — already enhanced by its cooperation with Washington in peace processes in the region.

It could also help Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin win new arms contracts and boost trade relations when he visits the Gulf region from Nov. 19 to 24.

Russian foreign policy has become particularly assertive in areas closer to home.

Moscow has sent signals to other former Soviet republics that it regards them as part of a Russian sphere of influence and has sought to take on a peacekeeping role in some of these republics — a move resisted by the United States.

ANALYSIS

In Eastern Europe, Moscow has opposed NATO expansion, its membership to former Warsaw Pact member states such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, prompting these countries to fear they will fall into a grey zone between east and west.

Russia has also become an important player in the Bosnian conflict, trying to use its influence over its Orthodox Christian brothers in Serbia to forge a peace agreement.

That, so far, has failed.

But Russia also sent troops to Sarajevo last February, helping head off NATO air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs, and it won a place among five countries which drew up a plan for the de facto division of Bosnia.

In another sign of Russia's assertiveness, the State Duma was expected on Friday to condemn the United States' decision to stop enforcing a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims from Saturday, a move Russia fears will increase fighting in Bosnia.

"Russia has firmly marked out the parameters of its influence in Europe and the world," Boris Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said after troops were sent to Sarajevo.

"The illusory nature of the notion that any major problem can be solved behind Russia's back has become apparent."

States and Britain, the key opponents of any easing of the oil and trade embargo.

Baghdad's renunciation of its historic claim to Kuwait was not enough, officials in Washington and London said.

They stressed that Iraq still had to comply with other U.N. demands before the sanctions were lifted.

White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said Iraq must still release political prisoners, return property seized from Kuwait and dismantle its weapons programme.

Mr. Abu Saleh said the Republican victory in the U.S. congressional elections would further complicate things between us and the Americans.

Some Baghdadis tuned in to foreign radio stations to know more.

King honours Majali

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday presents the decorated Al Nahda Medal, one of Jordan's highest honours, to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

The medal was conferred upon Dr. Majali in appreciation of his efforts as the head of the Jordanian delegation to peace negotiations with Israel and the responsibilities he shouldered as prime minister.

Dr. Majali headed the negotiators until May 1991 when he was appointed prime minister. In his capacity as prime minister and foreign minister, Dr. Majali was closely involved in every phase of the peace negotiations with Israel.



Algerian women fight terror

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thirty-two years after Algeria won its independence from France with a massive participation of Algerian women in the battlefield, Algerian women are resisting "forces of terror" within their own society that threaten to take away all the gains that women obtained after independence.

The women's forum of the regional preparatory meeting of Arab women observed a minute of silence last Tuesday in respect for the some 10,000 people that have died in civil conflict in Algeria since elections were cancelled there in 1992.

Algeria's official representative to the meeting, Saidi Ben Habylas, urged the forum to adopt strong language condemning violence against women as a means to political gains.

"Women in Algeria have been attacked because they are women, because their fathers, husbands, brothers or mothers are politically active in one arena or another. Women are being terrorised as a means for some men to attain political gains," she said.

Mrs. Ben Habylas, who is a member of Algerian parliament and veteran women's activist, said that widespread political corruption in the 1990s within the Algerian political hierarchy, social and economic inequalities in Algeria and "outside" interference in Algeria had led to a situation of political chaos which allowed "terrorism" to grow and spread.

"I say terrorism because that is what it is. — The West has sometimes called it militant Islam. — But Islam and what is happening in Algeria have nothing to do with one another," Mrs. Ben Habylas told the Jordan Times during an interview last week.

According to Mrs. Ben Habylas, oppression of women increased after elections were cancelled in 1992 after Islamist candidates appeared to have won the majority of the seats in parliament. "Many people had sympathy with the Front Islamic solute at the beginning," more commonly known by the acronym FIS.

"Initially their victims were people close to the security apparatus or to oppressive wings of the regime — so people felt the FIS was attacking the oppressive or corrupt groups in our society," she said.

The history of the FIS and other "terrorist" groups is a series of alliance with a corrupt "politico-financial mafia" that helped bring about the economic and social inequalities in Algeria during the 1970s

and 1980s, according to Mrs. Ben Habylas.

They wanted to destroy the hope of democracy that was there during the interim period when political pluralism was being introduced during the late 1980s, explained Mrs. Ben Habylas. "Political pluralism and democracy would have meant exposure of corruption of the old order. This old order allied themselves with the FIS in the 1980s and agreed that they would 'share power'."

The aim of the alliance, says Mrs. Ben Habylas, was to make sure the corrupt would not be exposed on the one hand and that the terrorists would gain power on the other hand. — "There was a deal," she said.

The victim of this pact between an old corrupt oligarchy and a new militant political grouping was Algeria, she says. "The strategy was to send Algeria into an age of obscurity and ignorance. Any system of thought that takes away peoples' rights rather than expands them is an enemy of the people," she said, referring to the wide-ranging restrictions that the FIS and its allies are trying to impose on Algerian society.

"Furthermore this is a terror for export. They want to involve outsiders. The west indirectly supports the FIS with its IMF and World Bank demands on Algeria. It is weakening the middle class and making the poor poorer and the rich richer, creating a stronger breeding ground for terror. The rank and file of the terror groups are disillusioned young men who see no future. So they destroy what ever is in front of them blindly," Mrs. Ben Habylas says.

The middle class represented some 34 per cent of Algerians during the 1980s and the working classes and poorer classes 62 per cent.

"Instead of alleviating the poor, all are becoming poor," she said.

While Mrs. Ben Habylas fingers corrupt elements in her own society as largely responsible for the status quo, she also sites the bad influence from outside the country that has aggravated the situation.

"The West supported a corrupt government and thus is partly to blame and governments such as the one in Iran financed and trained the terrorists and thus are also partly to blame," she said.

Political agenda

The history of the FIS and other "terrorist" groups is a series of alliance with a corrupt "politico-financial mafia" that helped bring about the economic and social inequalities in Algeria during the 1970s

Hizbollah stages solidarity rally with Palestinians

BEIRUT (AP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah on Friday staged a show of solidarity with Palestinian fundamentalists responsible for suicide bombing attacks in Israel.

More than 2,000 Lebanese and Palestinian zealots chanted "Death to America, Death to Israel" during a four-hour mass rally held by Hizbollah, or Party of God, in south Beirut to mark its self-styled martyrs' day.

Hizbollah's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah was flanked by senior leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two main Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) self-rule accord with Israel.

It was the strongest display of the alliance binding Israel's deadliest foes under Iran's tutelage. Iranian Ambassador Hamayoun Ali Zadeh and his senior aides sat in the front row at the rally.

Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Fathi Al Shuqai took pride in Friday's attack by a suicide cyclist bomber, who killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded a dozen Palestinians and Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shuqai called Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a fool and vowed more suicide attacks to avenge the car-bomb killing of Hani Abed, an Islamic Jihad leader whose death in Gaza Nov. 2, was blamed on Israel.

"Since the martyrdom of brother Hani Abed we have been asserting that we shall not rest until we take revenge for his dear blood. This was fulfilled today," Mr. Shuqai told the Associated Press.

"Rabin is a fool. He thinks we fear death. In martyrdom more than life. He should realise that every time he kills one of our leaders he should prepare many more coffins for his soldiers," Mr. Shuqai added.

Mr. Shuqai gave the interview after the rally, where he was a key speaker along with Sheikh Nasrallah and Mohammad Nazzari, the official spokesman of Hamas in Jordan.

Sheikh Nasrallah described as glorious feats the Islamic Jihad bombing in Netzarim at Gaza Strip and the suicide bus bombing in central Tel Aviv that killed 22 people Oct. 19.

U.S. group urges Kuwait to uphold Farhat ruling

KUWAIT (AP) — Harvard Law School's human rights programme Saturday urged the emirate's highest court to uphold the life sentence handed to a former policeman who killed two Lebanese he claimed collaborated with Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait.

The cassation court, roughly equivalent to the U.S. Supreme Court, rules Monday on whether to uphold or change an appeals court decision to commute the life sentence given to Jaber Al Ameeri for the double slaying to 15 years' imprisonment.

Mr. Ameeri, 33, was sentenced to life by the criminal court in December for murdering Ismail Farhat and his son Osama.

The Harvard group said in an open letter "to the people of Kuwait," telefaxed to the Associated Press, that it hopes the cassation court will "reverse these acts of injustice to the Farhat family."

Ismail Farhat's daughter, Naimat, escaped death in the shooting at the family home March 2, 1991, but was partially paralysed. She accused Mr. Ameeri of raping her, but the criminal court acquitted him on that count.

Mr. Ameeri was put on trial after Naimat Farhat left Kuwait to settle in Santa Cruz, California, with a brother who campaigned for his arrest.

The cassation court's ruling will be final. Its five-judge panel examines convictions and sentences handed down by lower courts. The court can overturn verdicts if it finds they were not in accordance with Kuwaiti law.

"We argue that a just court could not impose a sentence"

of a mere 15 years for shootings which left two people dead and one woman seriously paralysed," the Harvard statement said.

It also urged the cassation court to reconsider the acquittal of sexual assault, which it said reflected "bias against non-Kuwaitis and against women."

The Harvard programme has been following the case that was seen as a test of Kuwait's willingness to punish its own people for crimes committed during the lawless period that followed the Feb. 26, 1991, liberation of the emirate from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

"We are shocked by the judge's implication that the murders and attempted murder are somehow less heinous because the attacker claimed that he thought the Farhats were collaborating with the Iraqis," the Harvard group said.

"Even if the defendant believed this, no nation can permit its police officials to shoot suspects in the head, rather than arrest them and bring them to trial."

Mr. Ameeri, who was himself paralysed in a car accident after the attack on the Farhats, pleaded innocent to all counts.

The Harvard statement said the appeals court failed to consider how unreasonable his belief was that the Farhats were collaborators, especially since Nadim Farhat, another family member, was active in the armed resistance against the Iraqis who invaded in August 1990, and that Osama had smuggled weapons to the Kuwaiti fighters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli prime minister to visit Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will make the first visit by an Israeli premier to Tokyo Dec. 12-14 for talks with Japanese leaders, the Yomiuri newspaper reported here Saturday. Mr. Rabin will meet his Japanese counterpart, Tomiichi Murayama, and sign an agreement to promote exchanges of scientists between the two countries, Yomiuri said. Talks between the two leaders are expected to centre on the Middle East after the signing of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, the daily said. The Japanese government plans to provide \$200 million to help Palestinians, it added.

Pasqua in security talks with Saudis

DUBAI (R) — French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua held talks on Saturday in Saudi Arabia expected to focus on security issues and the problems of Muslims living in France. The official Saudi Press Agency said Mr. Pasqua met Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz in Riyadh, but did not elaborate. Mr. Pasqua arrived in Riyadh on Friday night for a three-day visit at the invitation of Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz. It said Mr. Pasqua expressed upon arrival France's opposition to exploiting religion for political ends by Muslims living there. "As you know, we have an important number of Muslims in France and we would like them to carry out their religious rites freely and quietly, but we do not want some people to exploit religion for political ends, causing instability. It is not only because of that, but because of the important ties which bind us with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

Azerbaijan, Iran to cooperate over Caspian Sea

BAKU (R) — Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev discussed cooperation in oil production, fishing and the ecology of the Caspian Sea with Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh on Friday, an Azeri news agency said. "Cooperation on the Caspian is obligatory," the Turan agency quoted Mr. Aliyev as saying. It gave no further details. The five states bordering the Caspian — Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran — are negotiating jurisdiction over the sea after Moscow raised objections when Azerbaijan signed an offshore oil deal in September. The Russian foreign ministry said no single country had jurisdiction over the sea's resources. But Azerbaijan says Russia is not blocking the deal and negotiations appear to be focusing on fishing and environmental questions. Russia's RIA news agency said Mr. Aqazadeh, during his visit to Baku, would discuss joint construction of a Caspian Sea oil drilling platform. It said he was also expected to discuss Tehran's possible participation in developing the Azeri sector of the Caspian.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
18:30 Le Vent Des Moutons
19:30 News in French
19:45 Ughuila
19:50 News in Hebrew
19:55 On Location
20:00 F.B.I. Untold Stories
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 You Bet Your Life
21:10 Sherlock Holmes — "An Incident At Victoria Falls"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Scarlett
23:30 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:37 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhur
14:17 'Asr
16:43 Maghreb
18:02 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terremotta Church Tel. 622369
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will continue to prevail with winds variable becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 9/20
Aqaba 14/26
Deserts 6/22
Jordan Valley 18/24

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Farouq Hour 765680
Dr. Rashid Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh 881148
Fendous pharmacy 718336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

RR&D:

Dr. Mohammad Khalili 273099
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Harzallah 988075
Khalifah pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Highway Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 34242
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 603021
Honest Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akhleh Maternity, J. Amn 6424415
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 658045
Al-Musaffer Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdull 6661757
Al-Ahli, Abdull 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marik 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 60234050
Amal Hospital 074153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/905060
Bin Sian Hospital 09/986732
Al Hilma Medical Hospital 09/909090
BR&D:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/225555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/227275
In Al Nafes Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35 Bangkok (RJ)
07:45 Athens (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Damascus (RJ)
09:05 Larnaca (RJ)
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35 Beirut (RJ)
10:15 Madrid (RJ)
10:50 Paris (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:25 London (RJ)
11:40 Athens (RJ)
12:35 Vienna (RJ)
12:45 Rome (RJ)
13:05 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:05 Athens (RJ)
13:20 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:00 Abu Dhabi, Moscow (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
15:40 Larnaca (CY)
16:45 Beirut (ME)
18:20 Istanbul (TK)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:25 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
10:55 Vienna (RJ)
11:40 Rome (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:35 Jeddah (RJ)
12:50 Damascus (RJ)
13:15 Aqaba (RJ)
13:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:50 Damascus (RJ)
14:50 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
15:00 Bangkok (RJ)
15:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:10 Rome (AZ)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
14:50 Doha, Moscow (GF)
16:05 Moscow (SU)
16:45 Larnaca (CY)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 5:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Custard (small) 120/70
Carrot 300/180
Cauliflower 300/200
Cucumber 150/80
Cucumbers (large) 340/220
Eggplant 340/200
Garlic 750/500
Grapes (large) 160/80
Lemon 340/200
Marrow 320/180
Marrow (small) 160/80
Olive (green) 630/450
Onion (dry) 500/300
Orange 420/300
Pepper (hot) 620/500
Pepper (sweet) 320/200
Potato 350/200
Spinach 320/200
Tomato 300/200
String beans 850/500



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday introduces Queen Sofia of Spain to traditional handicrafts at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre. Queen Noor and Queen Sofia are accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal and Jordan Design and Trade Centre Director David O'Connor (Petra photo)

Queen Noor, Queen Sofia visit NHF, Jubilee School

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Sofia of Spain, who has been an honorary member of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Board of Trustees for several years, was welcomed to the NHF Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor, who particularly acknowledged her personal efforts and instrumental role in rallying support and in providing humanitarian assistance to Jordan through the Spanish Refugee Commission during the critical months of the Gulf crisis, a Royal Court statement said Saturday.

The funds provided by the commission enabled the NHF to launch the "Relief and Rehabilitation Project" which helped Jordanian families (those who returned to Jordan from the Gulf states during the crisis and others) cope with socio-economic hardships resulting from the 1991 war, said the statement.

Queen Sofia, who arrived here Friday with husband King Juan Carlos, viewed a documentary outlining NHF's philosophy and innovative grassroots development projects geared towards self-reliance and met with NHF project directors, it said.

During a tour of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, said the statement, Queen Noor introduced Queen Sofia to traditional handicrafts produced by women benefiting from NHF's various training and income generating projects, as well as by artisans from throughout the country.

Royal Decree approves PSD promotions

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree issued Saturday approved the Cabinet decision to promote Brigadier Mohammad Al Tariq, Public Security Department (PSD) deputy director for judicial police affairs, and Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi, the inspector general, to the rank of major-general. Another Royal Decree was issued approving the promotion of Colonel Ibrahim Al Nawaseh, director of the PSD's Planning Directorate, to the rank of brigadier. The decree also approves the promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Al Hammouri, Mohammad Bani Hani, Ghaleb Bani Hani, Jamal Al Momani, Habib Karar, Ahmad Al Umarat, Ali Obaidat, Mohammad Al Rousan, Abdullah Al Hamadneh, Issa Al Rousan, Kassab Andraus, Ya'qoub Al Rihani and Ibrahim Khashashneh to the rank of colonel. PSD Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan decorated the promoted officers with their new ranks Saturday at PSD headquarters.

WHO director sees new horizons for healthcare cooperation in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) appreciates the healthcare standards in Jordan and regards the Jordan-Israel peace process as a step towards opening new horizons for health related cooperation especially in the Jordan Valley region, according to WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima.

Speaking at a meeting Saturday with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Nakajima said WHO feels more committed to helping Jordan rid the valley of harmful insects, and the organisation was expected to make additional allocations for such assistance.

Dr. Nakajima, who arrived in Amman to take part in a roundtable meeting on the human dimensions of the Middle East peace treaty which opened Saturday, was briefed by Dr. Majali on the

expected developments and projects in the region in light of the peace treaty with Israel.

Dr. Majali and the WHO chief reviewed joint projects that could be conducted in the Jordan Valley to exterminate harmful insects, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Speaking in the presence of Health Minister Aref Batayneh, Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's appreciation of WHO's continued assistance to the Kingdom and the organisation's response in meeting the country's pressing needs in health affairs.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday discusses the prospects of healthcare cooperation in the area with visiting World Health Organisation Director General Hiroshi Nakajima. Also attending the meeting was Health Minister Aref Batayneh (Petra photo)



DONATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday receives at her office Director of the Board of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Raouf Abu Jaber and the association's Secretary Saliba Mushawar. Voicing appreciation of Princess Basma's continued endeavours to serve the Kingdom, Dr. Abu Jaber presented the Princess with a JD 92,000 donation which will support the rural development project carried out by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) in cooperation with the Japanese YMCA and Postal Saving Fund. The three-year project offers loans to residents of rural areas to be used in establishing agricultural and productive projects (Petra photo)

Jordan, Spain discuss trade, investment policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib Saturday urged Spain to increase its imports from Jordan in a bid to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries, which, he said, is heavily in favour of Spain.

Speaking at a meeting with the Spanish Minister of State for Commerce Apolonio Ruiz, who is accompanying King Juan Carlos on his state visit to the Kingdom, Dr. Khatib said that Spain is exporting \$43 million worth of goods to Jordan annually and importing very few Jordanian goods.

Dr. Khatib reviewed before the Spanish minister and his delegation the Jordanian government's policies to encourage investments in the Kingdom in light of the peace

process in the Middle East region and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

The various sectors in Jordan are preparing for joint projects and investments, especially in industry and services, said the minister.

Furthermore, Dr. Khatib said Jordan was willing to set up a joint Spanish-Jordanian business council that would oversee increased cooperation between Spanish and Arab business communities and pave the way for joint investments.

Dr. Khatib and the visiting delegation reviewed laws pertaining to trade and economy and Dr. Khatib presented a briefing on Jordan's plans to increase industrial production.

Kabariti welcomes U.S. decision to lift arms embargo on Bosnia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday welcomed the U.S. decision to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia Herzegovina, saying the step should prompt other nations to launch serious efforts to end the "massacres to which the Bosnian people have been subjected."

Deputy Abdul Kareem Al Kabariti said he hoped the American decision will lead to a new era in which "U.N. resolutions will be implemented in a way that will bridge the gap between international legitimacy and international justice in order to end the suffering of many peoples."

The U.S. late last week decided to withdraw from the international aviation blockade, enforcing the embargo but said Saturday



Abdul Karim Kabariti

it will not supply arms to the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

"I wouldn't say (the decision) will have no effect, but I would not say it will have a significant effect, because the arms embargo will be enforced by others," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quoted as saying.

Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N.

Adnan Abu Odeh on Thursday criticised the international organisation for failing to properly address the situation in the war-ravaged Bosnia and urged an end to the arms embargo.

Addressing the Iraqi decision to recognise the borders and sovereignty of Kuwait, the prominent deputy said: "I hope this will be a prelude to ending the tragic situation in which the Iraqi people have been living for the last four years."

Mr. Kabariti urged the Arab League to "break away from its bubble" and work towards the restoration of Arab solidarity and reactivating joint Arab institutions.

"The Arab League should at least work to bring about a minimum degree of solidarity which is a must as we enter a new historic era," Mr. Kabariti told reporters at the House.

Celebration planned for King's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture Saturday announced programmes to be presented in Amman as part of the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday which falls Monday, Nov. 14.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Amaireh told a press conference at his office that two main celebrations are scheduled at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on Thursday and that other celebrations will be organised for the occasion in other governorates.

One of the main celebrations at the Royal Cultural

Centre will feature the Koln choral troupe from Germany, while the second performance will be held Wednesday and will be presented by local troupes, said Mr. Amaireh.

He said that the second performance includes poetry recitals and children's plays as well as a book exhibition and an exhibition of photos and documents relating the life and work of King Hussein.

He said on Tuesday there will be a cultural event at the Royal Cultural Centre and similar cultural performances will be organised in other parts of the Kingdom.

Mr. Amaireh said that the Koln troupe, which comprises 250 members, is coming at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture in a bid to also stimulate tourism as the trip has been organised in cooperation with a German tourist office.

The Royal Gliding Club said it was preparing a show, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Thursday and Friday at the Amman Marka Airport.

In Irbid, the Irbid Private University will organise for the occasion a public rally Tuesday noon.

America activists pledge to help Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting "Americans for peace now" delegation Saturday said that her Washington-based group was determined to support Jordan's peace efforts in the Middle East. Gail Pressberg, who was speaking at a meeting with Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, said that the delegation would encourage the removal of all barriers between Israel and Jordan in a bid to ensure the process of investments in the Kingdom.

Mr. Asfour said the Jordanian business community and the Jordanian people were looking forward to further foreign investments and joint projects in the country in the

wake of the signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

"We are serious about peace and serious about launching joint projects between the private sectors in the Kingdom and foreign entrepreneurs," said Mr. Asfour.

He urged American investors to carry out projects in Jordan and set the example for other investors.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

★ A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 7:00 p.m.

NOVEL RECITAL

★ Novel recital by Saleh Al Qassem at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimou at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Fusan.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Radwan Al Dhahi, Jamal Abbas, and Walid Nasrallah at Ain Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Ali Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Salam Kan'an at the Balkas Art Gallery, Fuhes.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Annie Sakka at the French Cultural Centre.

Regional workshop urges Arab cooperation in higher education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Rabea Saoud Saturday urged Arab states to facilitate procedures pertaining to accrediting the equivalent of university degrees obtained in different Arab universities.

Addressing the opening meeting of a four-day regional workshop, the minister said that facilitating this can open the door for a greater measure of cooperation among Arab universities and the exchange of teachers and scholarships.

He said it would encourage Arab states to grant equivalence to various degrees obtained from foreign nations where more than 200,000 Arab students are currently doing their higher studies.

Referring to the procedures in Jordan, the minister said that Jordanian universities are open for Arab and foreign students and teachers working there to come from various Arab and foreign countries.

The meeting, which is organised by the Amman Regional Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is attended by delegates from 10 Arab states including Jordan.

UNESCO representative, Dr. Ramzi Slameh, said UNESCO was concerned with promoting cooperation among Arab countries in matters related to equivalence of degrees and certificates.



The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan extends its best wishes and greetings to its President

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

on the occasion of the anniversary of his birthday. The Board of Directors, Club administration and all members share in extending our felicitations on this happy day.

THE BRITISH BANK OF THE MIDDLE EAST

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The British Bank of the Middle East seeks Jordanian executive trainees. The chosen candidates will be provided with a lengthy period of training and familiarisation in a highly competitive and stimulating environment in Jordan and overseas. Those candidates that successfully complete their training will be offered management positions in Jordan.

Candidates (Jordanian nationals) should:

1. Have a master's degree in finance or other suitable discipline with a score of 80% = B + or better from an accredited university. Experience is not essential.
2. Have an ability to communicate persuasively in both written and spoken English and Arabic.
3. Be under 25 years of age.

Qualified candidates are requested to send their CVs, references, recent photos, copies of certified educational certificates and academic transcript to:

The Human Resources Executive
The British Bank of the Middle East
P.O.Box: 925286
Amman - Jordan

Last day to submit applications is on Nov. 20, 1994. Telephone calls are not acceptable.

* Applicants who applied for this job in the past should not re-apply.

Sri Lanka's Kumaratunga sworn in as new president

COLOMBO (R) — Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was sworn in as Sri Lanka's first woman president Saturday and pledged to work for an end to the bloody 11-year civil war against Tamil separatist rebels.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said in a speech to the nation that her election victory was a vote for peace.

"This must be, however, peace with honour for both parties to the conflict for it to be strong and durable. My government and I will continue our quest for peace," she said.

With a sweeping mandate from the polls, Mrs. Kumaratunga is expected to resume peace talks with Tamil separatist rebels suspended last month when the main opposition candidate was killed in a bomb blast during a campaign rally.

But she declined to say when she would resume the talks. "We can't tell you a time frame," she told a news conference.

Mrs. Kumaratunga also announced she would unveil a new policy package for foreign investors.

After the long, violent election campaign, Satur-

day's colourful investiture ceremony took place behind a tight security screen.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, dressed in a bright blue silk sari and flanked by her armed services chiefs, took the oath of office before Chief Justice G.P.S. De Silva and invited guests at the presidential secretariat.

"I have no words to express appropriately how deeply touched and overwhelmed I am and how humbled by the expression of the immense confidence and faith the nation has shown in me and my government," she said.

"I am not frightened but very aware of the very heavy responsibility placed upon us by this mandate, which means we will not be given many chances for excuses for achieving what the people expect us to," she later told reporters.

Police lined the road to the secretariat in central Colombo, where hundreds stood in pouring rain beneath blue flags, banners and pictures of Kumaratunga.

Gunboats patrolled offshore near the British-built brown stone building, once the parliament of Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was

then known.

It was here in 1948 that Mrs. Kumaratunga's father, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, spoke as leader of the house after the island won its independence. Twelve years later as prime minister he was assassinated.

His widow Sirima Bandaranaike, who replaced him to become the world's first woman prime minister, was present Saturday to see her daughter installed as the nation's fourth president and the first woman to hold the post.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who became prime minister after national polls in August, chose her mother to replace her as premier, giving the 78-year-old politician a third term in that post.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a 49-year-old mother of two, won Wednesday's presidential polls by two million votes, receiving 4.7 million votes or 62.28 per cent, on a campaign pledge to bring peace to the war-ravaged country.

When she became prime minister, ending 17 years of United National Party (UNP) rule, she initiated talks with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have been fighting for a

homeland for the 3.2 million minority Tamils in the country's north and east.

A second round of talks was postponed after opposition presidential candidate Gamage Dissanayake and 53 others were killed in an explosion triggered by a suicide bomber on Oct. 24 at a campaign rally.

Police said the Tamil rebels were suspects, although the rebels denied responsibility for the blast.

She said her mandate had a message for everybody. "It is a message against political violence, against war. Whether it be the LTTE or anybody, I think it would be in their interest to give heed to that message."

Mrs. Kumaratunga has pledged to abolish the current executive presidency, saying the system vests too much power in one individual.

The constitutional change, promised by July 1995, would enable Mrs. Kumaratunga eventually to swap roles with her mother, who has indicated she would like the ceremonial position of president.

Sri Lanka's ethnic war continued unabated Friday, a day after Mrs. Kumaratunga won the presidential election.



Newly elected President Chandrika Kumaratunga (centre) is sworn in before Chief Justice G.P.S. De Silva (left) at the presidential secretariat in the Sri Lankan capital (AFP)

Swedish EU supporters nudge ahead

STOCKHOLM (R) — With 24 hours to go before Swedes are due to vote whether or not to take their country into the European Union, politicians and media went all out to push a million uncertain voters towards the polling booths.

"Goodnight Europe or good morning the world?" asked the daily Expressen — proud publisher of what it called "the final opinion poll" Saturday that gave supporters a tiny lead.

The Gallup poll showed 49 per cent would vote "yes" to EU entry, 44 per cent "no" and the remaining seven per cent were undecided.

Other surveys have found an even larger percentage of "don't knows", around 20 per cent, meaning that up to 1.3 million of the country's 6.5 million voters are not sure how to respond to the question: "Do you believe Sweden should join the European Union in line with the agreement between Sweden and the EU member states?"

Most newspapers and mainstream politicians say the answer has to be "yes," but until now they have not actively sought votes from the undecided for fear of a backlash of "no" votes and a huge national embarrassment that could even bring down the government.

On Saturday, however, the establishment seemed to throw its caution to the chilly winter wind.

In Stockholm's central Sergel Square, where public rallies and celebrations traditionally start, large blue and yellow balloons printed with the EU's ring of 12 stars bobbed on long wires.

Sweden's national colours are yellow and blue, the same as those used on the union's flag. The campaign in the capital has not resorted to such harsh methods before, preferring to stick to low-level activism in leaflets, car stickers and posters.

In a televised debate Friday night, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, leader of the Social Democrat Party, teamed up with arch-rival conservative leader Carl Bildt to argue for a "yes".

Mr. Carlsson, usually wary of provoking or strengthening the anti-EU faction inside his own party, turned up the heat on opponents of entry when he exploded: "I have never met such pessimism or such weak faith in the potential of politics before."

Newspaper commentaries warned of the "Nordic tragedy" and "political hangover" that a "no" would cause.

The heavyweight daily Dagens Nyheter reminded its readers they held not only Sweden's economic and political prospects in their hands, but also the fate of neighbouring Norway.

"A yes in Sweden will also give a good chance of a yes in Norway," Nordic teamwork

will gain new life within the EU," it wrote.

Norway is the last of Europe's four members-in-waiting to hold its referendum. Its Nov. 28 vote is likely to end in a "no", according to many opinion polls, though they also show it could be influenced by the decision of the Swedes.

The governments of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Austria all completed membership agreements in March this year which allow them to become full members from Jan. 1, 1995.

Austria and Finland voted "yes" by clear margins.

Norwegian opposition to EU membership continues to rise two weeks ahead of the country's referendum on the issue, according to a new poll published Saturday in the Norwegian daily Dagbladet.

The poll, conducted by the MMI polling institute shows 48 per cent against membership, 29 per cent in favour and 23 per cent undecided.

Compared to a similar poll carried out one week ago, the "no" vote has increased by five per cent, the "yes" vote has slipped by two per cent and the number of "don't knows" has dropped by seven per cent.

The latest poll also asked voters how they would vote if Sweden voted "yes", where a poll Saturday indicated that 53 per cent of voters were in favour of EU membership and 47 per cent against.

U.S. nuclear experts arrive in N. Korea

LONDON (Agencies) — A team of U.S. nuclear officials arrived in North Korea Saturday to discuss safe storage of spent nuclear fuel, Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

A KCNA dispatch monitored in London said the two sides were beginning negotiations later Saturday and would continue talking until Nov. 19.

The dialogue was taking place under the terms of the October 21 U.S.-North Korean agreement aimed at defusing a dispute over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions that earlier this year had threatened to plunge the North East Asian peninsula into war.

Under the deal, the United States is to form a consortium including South Korea and Japan to provide the North

with light-water nuclear technology at a cost of around \$4 billion to replace its current graphite reactor system by the year 2003.

Light-water reactors (LWRs) produce little of the plutonium that is a key ingredient of nuclear weaponry and is generated in large quantities from graphite-reactor operations.

The specific focus of the negotiations taking place in Pyongyang this next week is to ensure the safe storage of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods removed last summer from an experimental graphite reactor.

It was North Korea's extraction of this fuel, which could have been processed into weapons-grade plutonium, that range alarm bells in Washington, Tokyo and the South Korean capital Seoul.

The rods have since been stored temporarily in a holding pond.

The Oct. 21 Geneva pact specified: "The DPRK (North Korea) and the U.S. will cooperate in finding a method to store safely the spent fuel from the 5 mw (E) experimental reactor during the construction of the LWR project, and to dispose of the fuel in a safe manner that does not involve reprocessing in the DPRK."

The agreement added that North Korean and U.S. experts would meet to discuss, "as soon as possible... specific arrangements for spent fuel storage and ultimate disposition."

South Korea Saturday welcomed the decision by the U.N. nuclear watchdog to verify the freezing of North Korea's suspect nuclear programme.

Chirac stands down as RPR leader

PARIS (AFP) — Jacques Chirac resigned Saturday as head of his deeply divided neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) party to prepare his campaign for French presidential elections in April-May next year.

Mr. Chirac told a specially convened meeting of the RPR leadership that he would be replaced during the campaign by Alain Juppé, foreign minister in the conservative coalition government headed by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Balladur, an underdog rival as standard-bearer of the right for next year's presidential poll, was noticeably absent from Saturday's meeting, which was due to hold a vote of confidence effectively endorsing Mr. Chirac's candidacy.

Also absent were Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, an influential figure in the party's rightwing, and Philippe Seguin, president of the National Assembly who had been considered a strong Chirac ally.

The two said in a statement released Thursday that they would boycott the meeting because they disapproved of the plan to endorse Mr. Chirac's candidacy despite continuing strong support among some RPR members for a Balladur presidential bid.

Militants hold off Pakistani attack

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Heavily-armed Islamic militants held off Pakistani paramilitary forces trying to quell unrest in the northwestern tribal Bajaur Agency, witnesses said.

The rebels are demanding the enforcement of Sharia (Islamic Law) in their semi-autonomous tribal areas.

Paramilitary Frontier

Corps officers said six of their men had been wounded in the operation which began Friday after negotiations between the government and the Tehrik Nefaz-e-Shariat Mohammad (TNSM) movement broke down.

There was no word on casualties among the rebels and a doctor at a civilian hospital in Bajaur Khan, Mohammad Yusuf Khan,

said the rocket, mortar and rifle fire had been too heavy to allow casualties to be brought to hospital.

Some of the heaviest battles were going on around Nawagai, near the Afghan border, and around a commercial college about two kilometres outside Bajaur Khan where militants were putting up stiff resistance after losing ground earlier.



Philippine leftist demonstrators march to the U.S. embassy carrying an effigy of Uncle Sam and Philippine President Fidel Ramos to denounce the upcoming visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton in Manila (AFP photo)

Clinton protesters march in Manila

MANILA (AP) — Shouting "Clinton out" and "Yankees go home" 1,000 leftists marched through Manila Saturday, several hours before President Bill Clinton's arrival.

As they passed through university areas, the protesters — mostly college students — urged people to join them.

At nightfall, they lit torches and protested outside Malacanang Palace, where President Fidel Ramos and Mr. Clinton plan to meet Sunday and hold a nationally televised news conference.

The League of Filipino Students, which organised the demonstration, often protests U.N. economic influence over their country and the mutual defence treaty, which remains in effect despite the 1992 withdrawal of all U.S. forces.

Calling Mr. Ramos, a former military general, "puppet," and "fascist," the students want him to deny U.S.

forces permission to refuel their warships and store military supplies here.

Earlier Saturday, 100 Filipinos held another protest near the U.S. embassy to urge Mr. Clinton to order a cleanup of alleged toxic wastes at two former U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Most of the demonstrators wore black masks with white skulls painted on the front. Police stopped them from reaching the embassy compound but allowed them to hold a brief rally.

Meanwhile, plunging into foreign policy after devastating election losses, President Clinton flew to the Far East Saturday to campaign for free trade and commemorate World War II victories in the Pacific a half-century ago.

After a refueling stop in Alaska, Mr. Clinton flew through the night to Manila the first visit by an American president to the Philippines since 1975. A state arrival

ceremony was planned Sunday at Malacanang Palace.

In contrast to the sweltering weather awaiting him in Manila, there was a foot (30 cms) of snow on the ground at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska where the president spoke during a refueling stop.

Urging unity after Republican captured the House and Senate in Tuesday's elections for the first time in 40 years, Mr. Clinton said: "Let us now join together to move this country forward in the best American spirit."

Still smarting from his political losses, he said "we are in the midst of an economic recovery that is the envy of the world and yet, still, a majority of ordinary Americans... (are) worried about the crime in our streets or the stability of their jobs or the security of their health care benefits."

In a global economy, Mr. Clinton said, "we have to fight and struggle for every single opportunity we have."

Timor protesters bed down at U.S. embassy in Jakarta

JAKARTA (R) — East Timorese students demanding U.S. President Bill Clinton's support for the release of their guerrilla hero invaded the U.S. embassy compound Saturday and nine hours later settled down for the night.

U.S. officials told them to leave by the end of the day, but they vowed to stay until their demands were met, threatening Mr. Clinton with some acute political embarrassment when he arrives here Sunday for a high profile summit.

Twenty-nine young men seeking the release of guerrilla chief Xanana Gusmao clambered over 2.6 metre (8 ft)-high spikes into an embassy parking lot, where they squatted nervously on the concrete saying they would go on hunger strike until they met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"America is the only superpower in the world. We think the Americans can use their influence to save the situation in East Timor," one demonstrator shouted.

Mr. Christopher was here for ministerial meetings to prepare for the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit Tuesday hosted by Indonesia President Suharto and to be attended by Mr. Clinton and a host of heads of government.

Embassy officials at first said the students could stay as long as they wished, but three hours later ordered them out by the end of the day.

Mr. Christopher, who pledged to raise concerns about East Timor with Indonesian authorities, said the United States would not move forcefully against the protesters.

"We have no plans to... throw them out," he told reporters before rushing to Manila to link up with Mr. Clinton on his way here. "We are dealing with the situation with sympathy and understanding, as well as firmness."

An embassy official told Reuters the Indonesian government had given assurances there would be no arrests or reprisals if the demonstrators left the compound, and that these promises had been relayed to the students.

"We are hoping they will leave voluntarily and peacefully," said spokeswoman Pamela Smith. She said the embassy "as a matter of law and practice" did not grant asylum in Indonesia.

The students gave no sign they would back down. "We will not leave until our demands are met," said one.

When the tropical night fell, some of the protesters settled down to sleep. They had no food or water and an embassy spokeswoman said she knew of no plans to give them supplies. Water is crucial in Indonesia's body-sapping heat.

Some journalists defied police attempts to block them and tossed protesters plastic bottles of water.

Several hundreds police, some with automatic weapons, were positioned outside the compound. The demonstration was a setback for 73-year-old Suharto as he prepared to welcome leaders of half of the world's peoples.

He regards the summit as a highlight of his 27 years in power and wanted to keep Indonesia's human rights record off the agenda of 2,000 journalists covering the event.

But it was also another potential embarrassment for Mr. Clinton, already reeling from a mauling in mid-term congressional elections. Human rights activists have accused him of putting commerce before more humanitarian concerns.

Indonesia's rule over the former Portuguese colony, 2,000 kilometres east of Jakarta, has become a focus for allegations of human rights abuses.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 — a day after a visit by U.S. President Gerald Ford — and annexed it a year later. But its authority is not recognised by the United Nations.

It has since faced dwindling guerrilla resistance and widespread resentment, especially among younger Timorese.

A statement issued on behalf of the students called on Mr. Clinton to press for the release of Mr. Xanana, 47, jailed for life last year after a trial dismissed by human rights activists as a farce. Mr. Suharto later reduced the sentence to 20 years.

Mr. Xanana, in an open letter to the U.S. president circulated in Jakarta Friday, appealed to Mr. Clinton for help, asking him to raise the Timor issue in meetings with Mr. Suharto.

Mr. Christopher Saturday said that North Korea could aspire to membership of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum once it cleared doubts over its nuclear programme and other issues.

"Looking down the road, membership of APEC and other regional organisations is something the North Koreans can aspire to if their isolation ended and their conduct merits that kind of membership," Mr. Christopher said.

He said that a current moratorium on admitting new countries into APEC, which ends in two years, would allow the group to assess whether Pyongyang had made progress in resolving other issues like its abuse of human rights and support for terrorism.

Mr. Christopher was speaking at a news conference here at the end of a two-day meeting of foreign and trade ministers of the 18-member APEC, whose leaders will hold their second summit in nearby Bogor Tuesday.

Christopher said that a framework accord between the U.S. and Pyongyang on the nuclear issue was still in its early stages.

"I think that if that is resolved and North Korea takes serious other action they will begin to draw some of the benefits of becoming a member of the family of nations," he said.

Marriage lasted 17½ hours

BONN (AFP) — Germany's shortest-ever marriage has ended after just 17 and a half hours, Bild newspaper reported Friday. That was the time it took hairdresser Karin, 25, and pub landlord Hans-Werner, 33, to go from the Registry Office to a divorce lawyer, the paper said. Fists began to fly as soon as their wedding night began.

Miss World, with 87 competitors, claims record

SUN CITY, South Africa (AFP) — The Miss World Pageant claimed a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of participants in a beauty contest when 87 young women lined up here Friday for a group photograph. The previous record, also set in this northwestern province resort two years ago, saw contestants almost dropped to 86 when Miss Belgium, Isabelle Meulemeester, 23, fell and injured herself in the dressing room before the shooting session, the organisers said. She was eventually helped on stage to participate in the group snap.

Liberal Democrats lose again to Liberal Democrats

LONDON (R) — Britain's centrist Liberal Democrats Friday lost their appeal for a European parliamentary election re-run after complaining they were robbed by a political impostor calling himself a "Liberal Democrat." The election court ruled there was nothing unlawful in retired headmaster Richard Huggett calling himself a Liberal Democrat in last June's election in the western English constituency of Devon. The two judges in the court ruled: "It is clear that the rules do not prohibit candidates (whether out of spite or a wicked sense of fun) from describing themselves in a confusing way or indulging in spoiling tactics." Liberal Democrat Adrian Sanders polled 74,253 votes, just 700 behind Giles Chichester, candidate of the ruling Conservative Party. Huggett took 10,203 votes even though he issued no campaign literature. The judges dismissed Mr. Sanders' petition and declared Mr. Chichester duly elected.

Newborn baby survives trash compactor

NEW YORK (AFP) — A newborn baby stuffed in towels and plastic with a sock crammed in its mouth barely escaped death when a building supervisor decided not to compact trash in the chute the baby was thrown down. The infant, with 15 centimetres (six inches) of umbilical cord still attached, survived the drop from one of the hatches in the six-story building's garbage chute early Thursday according to police, landing in piles of garbage below. The child was saved from being crushed when building superintendent Caesar De Leon decided to hand sort garbage instead of compacting it with the machine as he usually does. Mr. De Leon said he heard faint noises as he picked through plastic bottles and food wrappers and pulled out the clump of towels, but he was not sure where the sounds came from. He tossed the bundle and other refuse into a garbage bag and heaved the load down a flight of stairs where other bags awaited collection. Then he heard the faint noise again. "I didn't think I had a baby here," Mr. De Leon said. "I thought it was maybe a cat." Mr. De Leon cut the bag open, discovered the child and called the authorities. Rescue personnel reported the baby was stiff, blue and cold when they arrived, but emergency revival procedures brought the child back. The baby is in a hospital listed in good condition. Police conducted a door-to-door search for the mother but have reported no leads. "Baby saver De Leon, himself a father of two, remained agitated by the discovery. 'I can still see him in the garbage,' Mr. De Leon said. 'It makes me nervous. It makes me sad.' Thursday police in Pomona, California, charged Araceli Garcia with killing her newborn baby and tossing it into a neighbour's yard where a dog mauled it. Authorities charged Garcia, 19, with murder and endangering a child for placing the baby after its birth within the dog's reach on Nov. 4.

Marriage lasted 17 1/2 hours

ROMA, Italy — A 17 1/2-hour marriage ceremony in Rome ended in a divorce after the bride and groom failed to consummate the union.

Miss World, with 87 competitors, claims record

NEW DELHI, India — The Miss World beauty pageant, which began its 45th year on Sunday, claims to be the largest beauty pageant in the world.

Liberal Democrats lose again to Litteral Democ...

LONDON, England — The Liberal Democrats lost a general election to the Labour Party in a landslide victory on Sunday.

Newborn baby survives trash compactor

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A newborn baby survived being crushed in a trash compactor for several hours before being found.



Bosnian Serb fighters patrol through the woods near the front line some 5km south of the western town of Bihać (AFP photo)

Over a million protest against Berlusconi

ROME (R) — Huge crowds estimated by organisers at well over one million people demonstrated in central Rome Saturday against the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Union leaders said up to 1.5 million people had taken to the streets, sending an extremely strong signal to Mr. Berlusconi, who faces a vote of confidence over the 1995 budget Monday.

"This is the largest demonstration of all times," said Sergio d'Antoni, leader of the CISL trades union, one of three big confederations to call the protest.

National Police Chief Fernando Masone said his force was updating its latest crowd estimate of 600,000-700,000. It is quite possible that we will reach organisers' figure of one million.

Demonstrators from five different marches filled three

of Rome's most historic open spaces — the Piazza Del Popolo, the Circus Maximus and St. John's Square — to capacity.

The protest took on the atmosphere of a carnival, with hundreds dressed as caricatures of Mr. Berlusconi and his allies and many more carrying effigies to symbolise their complaints.

A small number of demonstrators broke away from the main body of the protest to hurl abuse at Mr. Berlusconi outside the television studios of his Fininvest Company.

Some coins were thrown and a stone was hurled at a police truck, but no injuries were reported.

Workers, pensioners and students had travelled through the night in coaches, chartered trains and car ferries to express their anger at the government's plans.

One group of demonstrators carried large dustbins emblazoned with the names

of Mr. Berlusconi and his two big coalition allies — Umberto Bossi, the leader of the federalist Northern League, and Gianfranco Fini, head of the neo-fascist-led national alliance.

Hundreds more carried small posters showing a fist with its middle finger raised over a slogan, "the index of appreciation."

Mr. Berlusconi's own employees took part in the protest, some travelling overnight by train to join in.

"We all used to believe in him — no longer," said a woman who works for Mr. Berlusconi's media super-market chain. She asked not to be named.

"Let's get rid of Berlusconi, the new duce," another banner said, calling the prime minister by the title of wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Helicopters hovered overhead.

Protesters from the Piedmont region in the northwest,

the worst hit by devastating floods that killed 64 people last week, carried flags and banners spattered with mud.

Police with truncheons and crash helmets attached to their belts and carrying gas masks in bags slung on their shoulders were dotted along the routes of the marches.

Cabinet spokesman Giuliano Ferrara said the demonstration, ostensibly called to protest against cuts in health and pensions spending, had become an anti-government protest.

"We respect those who disagree with us and must take their feelings into account," said Mr. Ferrara, a former editorialist with one of Mr. Berlusconi's three national television stations.

"But governments are not toppled cabinet rank."

He defended the government, saying it simply no longer had the money to continue paying out pensions at the rate it was.

U.S. says U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia will not be broken

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, attempting to soothe American allies on Bosnia, promised Saturday that Washington would not break a U.N. arms embargo by supplying weapons to Muslim forces.

A U.S. decision to withdraw from the international naval blockade enforcing the embargo has upset countries who have troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia.

Mr. Christopher told reporters in Jakarta that the United States had no intention of supplying weapons to Muslim-led Bosnian government forces.

President Bill Clinton ordered U.S. warships in the Adriatic to stop intercepting vessels suspected of smuggling arms for the Muslims from midnight Saturday.

"I wouldn't say it will have no effect but I would not say it will have a significant effect because the arms embargo will be enforced by others," Mr. Christopher said.

He stressed that the United States would continue to apply the embargo to Bosnian Serbs, and that the U.S. Air Force would remain active in the task force enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia.

European and other countries, which unlike the United States have peacekeeping troops on the ground in Bosnia, fear that any modification of the U.N. embargo would expose the soldiers to Serb retaliation.

The embargo was imposed in 1991 in a vain attempt to contain conflict as former Yugoslavia disintegrated.

Muslim forces, outgunned by their Serb foes throughout 31 months of fighting, improved their battlefield performance in recent weeks thanks to a flow of contraband light arms.

But those first gains of the war looked in serious danger this weekend in northwest Bosnia where Bosnia Serb Army (BSA) troops have clawed back lost territory around the Bihać pocket.

U.N. spokesman Koos Sol said the military situation was "highly tense and unstable with the BSA tightening the

loop around Bihać."

The enclave contains the U.N.-guaranteed "safe haven" of Bihać town which, on this occasion, peacekeepers and NATO warplanes have done nothing to protect despite intense Serb shelling and appeals by the Bosnian government.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi met Bosnian Serb leaders Friday but emerged without making progress on his goal of lifting a BSA blockade of aid and fuel for Muslim enclaves and peacekeeping units.

Despite the lack of U.N. response, spokesman Thant Myint-U insisted Mr. Akashi was still ready to respond to the Serb challenge to the peacekeepers' evaporating credibility.

"We told the Bosnian Serb leaders that we remained committed to protecting the safe area of Bihać town and the immediate area, making it clear a forceful response could be expected if civilians in the safe area came under threat," Thant added.

The Serbs have taunted the U.N. by shelling Bihać from territory they hold in neighbouring Croatia where peacekeepers have no mandate to intervene.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has vowed to disarm Bosnian government forces in Bihać which shelters 180,000 Muslim civilians deprived of all outside aid since June by a Serb blockade.

Bosnian Defence Minister Jadranko Prlic met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Saturday and said Bosnia would ask Croatia to intervene in the Bihać fighting to help Muslims.

Meanwhile the German news weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday that Bosnia's Serbs have been getting modern weaponry from Russian troops in breach of a United Nations arms embargo.

In an advance release from this week's edition, the magazine said the Serbs had received 83 122-millimetre Howitzers with a range of 15 kilometres in September alone.

Der Spiegel said it had reliable estimates that some 4,000 railway wagons of Russian weaponry and munitions had been diverted to the Bosnian Serbs. Some Russian elite units were missing modern S-300B anti-aircraft missiles, it added.

It quoted the Frankfurt Institute for Soviet Studies as saying that most of the arms came from the stocks of the Western Army Group, the Russian troops who were stationed in former East Ger-

many until the last of them pulled out in August.

Their commander, General Matvei Burlakov, was made a first deputy defence minister after his return to Moscow but was sacked on Nov. 1.

Over the last 18 months, many Russian media articles have detailed what they say is firm evidence that Gen. Burlakov and the Western Army Group were involved in large-scale arms smuggling.

Russia expressed concern Saturday over the unilateral U.S. decision to stop enforcing a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia, saying it could signal a general reluctance to work as a team in solving international problems.

A brief but carefully worded statement issued by the Foreign Ministry described the U.S. decision, announced Friday, as "regretful and worrisome."

"What causes concern is not just the step as such but rather its general thrust," the statement said.

"For various reasons, including domestic ones, the United States appear increasingly insistent in pushing through unilateral decisions which are not in the framework of agreed collective action," the statement said.

General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Bosnian army commander Rasim Delic, with whom they discussed the latest developments in Bosnia (AFP photo)



Special U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi (left) gestures as he answers journalists' questions with Ejup Ganic (right), vice-president of the Bosnian-Croat Federation, in Sarajevo. Both men had met earlier with British Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Bosnian army commander Rasim Delic, with whom they discussed the latest developments in Bosnia (AFP photo)

Violence kills 4 in Bangladesh; strike begins

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's capital was virtually paralysed by a general strike Saturday after four people were killed in clashes and by a bomb that police said had been meant for use during the protest.

Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen revived a stalled attempt to end Bangladesh's protracted political crisis and held a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The strike was called by Bangladesh's three largest

opposition parties to try to force Ms. Khaleda's government to step down and call new elections under a caretaker administration.

Opposition parties have boycotted parliament since February and staged strikes and street protests to press their demands, which the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has rejected as unconstitutional.

Opposition activists set off dozens of explosions in Dhaka early Saturday as the dawn-to-dusk strike began, witnesses said.

Four people were killed and many injured in a bomb blast and clashes late Friday ahead of Saturday's strike. Police said no one was hurt in Saturday's stonings and bombings.

The deaths on the eve of the strike occurred outside the capital as opposition parties prepared to widen the stoppage nationwide Sunday, police added.

Three people died when a powerful bomb they were making, apparently for use during the strike, exploded in the southeastern town of

Chandpur. At least five others were injured in the blast, local officials told reporters.

Another man was shot dead Friday at Narayanganj 18 kilometres from Dhaka in fighting between supporters of the BNP and its main Awami League rival, police said.

In Dhaka Saturday, a few bicycle rickshaws provided the only transport with public networks at a standstill. Offices, banks, schools and businesses were mostly closed.

Ruling party leads in Mozambique elections

MAPUTO (R) — Vote counting in Mozambique's first multi-party general elections passed the half-way mark Saturday, with President Joaquim Chissano and his ruling FRELIMO party in front of the rival reformer rebel RENAMO movement.

National Electoral Commission (CNE) figures showed that with about 55 per cent of ballots counted from the Oct. 27-29 polls, Mr. Chissano had more than

1.6 million votes to RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama's 852,150 in the presidential race.

In the battle for the 250-seat parliament, RENAMO had 911,952 votes compared to more than 1.3 million votes for FRELIMO, which has ruled since 1975 independence from Portugal.

Results are being declared according to returns from polling stations rather than

on a broader provincial tally, making a projection on lines of known support base more difficult.

But results so far seem to confirm RENAMO, once derided by many Mozambicans as a band of terrorists and accused by Western governments of war-time atrocities, as the second most powerful political force in the land.

Most poll analysts predict final results would give Mr.

Chissano a clear victory in the presidential race over Mr. Dhlakama. But FRELIMO is expected to claim only a narrow win in the assembly, prompting unease about division after the elections.

The elections were aimed at consolidating 1992 peace accords between the Mozambican government and RENAMO after 16 years of brutal civil war in the impoverished southern African country.

Rwandan army kills 14 in tense southwest zone

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government army has killed 14 Hutus in the southwest where hostility is mounting between the country's new rulers and Hutu villagers and refugees, U.N. officials said Saturday.

Soldiers are forcibly evacuating refugee camps where they fear concentrations of Hutu refugees pose a threat following the genocide of about one million Tutsis by the Hutu majority under the old Hutu government earlier this year.

Sammy Kumbi, spokesman for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said seven refugees were killed Thursday when Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) soldiers tried to forcibly evacuate Musange, a camp of up to 2,000 Hutus north of the town of Gikongoro.

As the soldiers torched the shelters, small arms fire erupted in the camp, one of many set up in June as Hutus fleeing the advance of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front sought safety in a "safe zone" set up by French troops who later left.

who tried to intervene were surrounded by the RPA, but there was no exchange of fire," said Mr. Kumbi.

In an incident Friday, seven people died and at least 13 were wounded when an RPA patrol opened fire in Musebeya village.

UNAMIR said it understood soldiers first fired into the air after stone-throwing villagers surrounded them in a marketplace, and then shot into the crowd when it refused to disperse.

Zambian troops later disarmed the patrol and escorted them to their base. But the aid agency feed the children, which was in Musebeya distributing food to refugees, said the RPA had said it was acting in self defence after a grenade was thrown. It described people being shot as they fled the scene.

Feed The Children is among 13 non-governmental organisations which have suspended their activities in the Gikongoro area because of the incidents and demanded a government explanation. U.N. officials say they received daily reports of incidents in the former French

protection zone, where relations between the mainly Tutsi soldiers and Hutu villagers and refugees appear to be at breaking point.

Four months after the end of the civil war, up to 500,000 Hutu refugees in the southwest are refusing to return home, many of them convinced they will be killed by the RPA.

More than one million hut refugees are living in camps outside Rwanda.

As frustration and anger mount in the camps and rains worsen living conditions, the refugees are becoming more openly hostile to the new government army.

"The RPA tell us that every time they pass a displaced persons camp people shout, throw stones and even grenades at them," said Mr. Kumbi.

"People are getting more daring and more willing to provoke. We are seeing a disturbing increase in violence both in the camps and outside."

Musange was the fourth camp to be targeted for evacuation by the army. In October three camps in the Kibuye district further to the

west were forcibly cleared by the RPA.

UNAMIR says officially it is satisfied by assurances from the authorities that forcible evacuation is not government policy but many U.N. personnel are convinced the RPA has launched a systematic campaign to raze the camps.

"They seem to be moving southwards," said one officer who asked not to be named. "The trouble is that if they're just driving the refugees from one camp to another it's not going to solve anything."

The U.N. has reinforced its troop presence in the area in a bid to stem the violence. A Zambian battalion recently joined Ethiopian, Ghanaian and Indian troops in the area.

But U.N. officials say the situation will deteriorate until the government can convince refugees both inside its borders and in Zaire and Tanzania it is safe to return.

They say an essential prerequisite is massive bilateral aid to allow the government to build new houses, pay its fractious army and reconstruct Rwanda's shattered civil service, police force and judicial system.

Angola: No deal to halt war before ceasefire

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government said Saturday it had not agreed to halt fighting with UNITA rebels ahead of a full ceasefire and state radio reported a fierce battle in a southern province.

"It is not true," government spokesman Almediro De Conquezo told Reuters when asked to comment on remarks by a Zambian government official who said Luanda had agreed to stop fighting and a de facto ceasefire in Angola should follow.

"We are going to fulfil the calendar that has been established," said Mr. De Conquezo, apparently referring to the planned formal signing with UNITA rebels of a peace pact on Nov. 15 and a ceasefire due to come into force two days later.

The two sides initialled a peace agreement in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Oct. 31 after 11 months of tough talks, but fighting has continued.

State radio said fighting was taking place near a town identified as Masseque in the southern province of Cuando Cubango Saturday.

"The war has not stopped. Heavy fighting began yesterday. Shelling is continuing now," it said.

A government offensive on the UNITA bastion of Huambo has thrown the peace process in doubt, with the rebel movement saying it was not prepared to talk peace while it was under attack.

The government said Friday it had captured Huambo, but UNITA Radio said Saturday fierce fighting was still taking place in the city.

where the rebel movement's leader Jonas Savimbi had his headquarters.

The radio, monitored in Sao Tome and Principe, said UNITA forces had prevented government soldiers from reinforcing positions and hundreds of troops had been killed.

There was no way of establishing the veracity of the differing accounts, but aid sources said the government appeared to be in control of Huambo, including the airport.

The Zambian government official said in Lusaka Saturday he expected the Angolan government to stop fighting "as a sign of good faith."

On Friday, the same official said: "We have said to the Angolan government that

we want a commitment they are going to stop the fighting, and they have agreed to that, so there should be a de facto ceasefire."

There was no sign in the Zambian capital Lusaka by mid-afternoon of a UNITA military delegation due in from Zaire for talks with Luanda government on technical details of the planned ceasefire.

A U.N. official described the mood in the Zambian capital as one of "quiet panic."

The delegation had been due Thursday but delayed its departure because of the Huambo fighting.

After feverish diplomatic efforts to get peace back on track, the meeting was

switched to Friday and then Saturday because of delays in flying the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) delegation from Kinshasa.

"We have spoken with UNITA's representative at the U.N. who has been in constant touch with Savimbi and the question of their delegation arriving in Lusaka is definite. Savimbi has reiterated that they must proceed," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

There has been no word on the whereabouts of Savimbi since Friday when an official South African source said South African intelligence believed he had left Huambo for his old wartime headquarters at Jamba in Angola's remote southeast.



Children raise their fists during celebrations of government troops control the town having Angola's independence from Portugal in pushed UNITA 10kms out (AFP photos) Malange, some 350kms east of Luanda. The

Fate of Irish government hangs in balance

DUBLIN (R) — The fate of the Irish government hung in the balance Saturday after a row between Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and his deputy, Dick Spring, which could have an impact on a peace drive for Northern Ireland.

Mr. Spring's parliamentary Labour Party, junior partner in the two-year-old coalition, was due to hold talks at a Dublin hotel Sunday to decide whether or not to pull out of the government in protest at the appointment of a new

high court president. Political sources said it was too early to predict what the outcome of the meeting would be but said that it would usher in a long period of uncertainty.

Labour ministers walked out of the cabinet meeting Friday where Attorney-General Harry Whelehan was appointed president of the High Court in what they said was a decision on which Mr. Reynolds' Fianna Fail party had not consulted them.

Political sources said Labour could decide to pull out of the government, leaving Mr. Reynolds either to call fresh general elections or try to push ahead with a minority government.

The row was being closely monitored by the British government because of its likely impact on a year-old peace drive for Northern Ireland by Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major.

A collapse of the government or a lengthy period of limbo could slow the pace of

what both men have said is the best chance of peace for decades.

Labour threatened to provoke early elections last month when Mr. Reynolds nominated Mr. Whelehan but the row was shelved for the sake of government unity.

But it resurfaced in parliament in angry exchanges over an extradition warrant for Northern Ireland for a Northern priest, Brendan Smyth, wanted on child sex abuse charges.

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Renewing bonds of history

THEIR MAJESTIES King Juan Carlos' and Queen Sophia's state visit to Jordan comes at a critical juncture in the transformation of the Middle East from a region of war and conflicts to, hopefully, an oasis of peace and prosperity. The peace treaty between Jordan and Israel that has just been signed and ratified, the prospects of additional breakthroughs on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, and the promise of a lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem are all encouraging and positive developments which the world as a whole has welcomed with optimism and relief.

Against this background King Juan Carlos' talks with His Majesty King Hussein acquire added importance since its timing is nothing short of meaningful solidarity with what Amman has just celebrated when King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged documents of ratification of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord Thursday.

It is also particularly fitting that the Spanish monarch be the first head of state to visit the country in the wake of the completion of all constitutional steps for the treaty with Israel since the whole process that preceded the past three years of achievements was started in Spain.

It was perhaps no accident that Madrid was chosen as the site of the Middle East negotiating process. The parties welcomed then the Spanish offer to host the embryonic talks in deep recognition of its stature in Europe and its honourable record on all past quests for peace in this region. It goes without saying that Spain occupies a central position in Europe and in the efforts of the European Community to become an important region of the world not only in economic matters but also in political, social and cultural concerns. The EU is destined to play a more crucial role in the future of the Middle East especially in the wake of the Casablanca Conference that envisaged a thriving North African and Middle East market. Cooperation between all the Mediterranean countries has always been a basic component of Spain's foreign policy, and the realisation of Arab-Israeli peace will no doubt accelerate the attainment of this goal.

Special credit for cementing the lasting and constructive relations between Spain and Jordan goes in particular to the strong bonds that exist on the personal level between our two monarchs. We take pride in these fraternal ties and highly value Spain's friendship and solidarity with us. If history is any guide to the future, we trust that Spanish ties to Jordan and the Arab World will continue to grow and prosper.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WELCOMING THE Spanish King and Queen in Amman Saturday, Al Ra'i Arabic daily voiced appreciation of Madrid's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East region, citing the Madrid conference three years ago as one major step that led to the conclusion of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty. Lauding the political, social, cultural and economic relations between Jordan and Spain, the daily said that the Arab World has always maintained strong ties with Madrid, especially as Spain is the closest European nation to the Arab region geographically and culturally, said the paper. Indeed, said the paper, the Arabs continue to look to Spain with deep respect, never forgetting that it was the Madrid conference that opened the way for peace between Israel and the Arab World. While remembering the Madrid peace conference and its effects on the future of the Middle East, and as we welcome the King and Queen of Spain in Jordan, said the paper, we can only hope that the Royal visit would open the way for further strengthening of bilateral ties and for enhancing the cause of peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's borders serves as the first step towards normalising relations between the two neighbouring countries after years of hostilities. The Iraqi and the Kuwaiti people have had strong social and cultural relations ever since the creation of the emirate despite the political differences between the two governments, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Paying tribute to Russia for using its good offices to bring about Baghdad's recognition of its neighbour, the writer said that it is hoped that the Kuwaitis will now recognise the Iraqi people's right to life free from sanctions, starvation and sickness so that diplomatic ties can be established between the two sides on a solid foundation. Such a step, he added, is essential for tension to disappear and for security and peace to return to the Gulf region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Maximising the benefits of peace

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli peace treaty passed through all constitutional stages in both countries as of Nov. 9, and became operational as an irreversible fact of political life in the area. Therefore, anymore arguments for or against the treaty will be aimless and unproductive. The only objective of further arguments would be to damage the name of others or to settle personal accounts, which have nothing to do with peace or with the treaty per se.

The question which is worth discussion from now on is: What about the future after peace? What is going to happen (forecast)? What should happen (national will)? And how to do what ought to be done (planning)? The purpose should be to contain the negative points and minimise their consequences, and to capitalise on the positive points and maximise their impact.

As far as political expectations are concerned we should be realistic. Most likely the treaty did not come up with something new except in formalities and legalistic points of view. In effect, the peace treaty came as a confirmation of a state of affairs which was, to a large extent, already in place.

In the field of economic expectations, we should be more moderate and conservative. True, peace is good economically and will help to raise the level of economic activity and improve the standard of living, but billions of dollars are not going to be showered upon us, simply because the donors are not ready for such a move. We should admit that we do not have specific promises or solid commitments to give us grants or even investments. We should not complain later on of the unfulfilled promises and unkept commitments because we do not have any. When President Bill Clinton addressed us through Parliament, he made two commitments: The first is to write off American debt, the

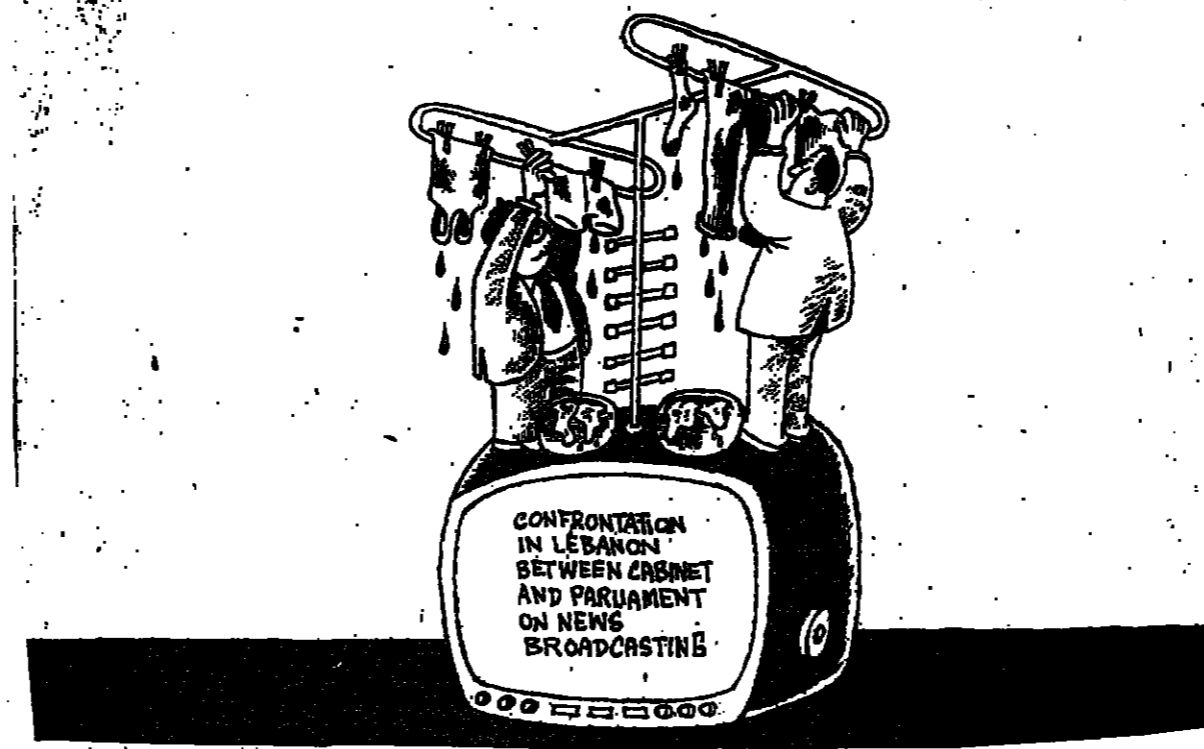
fulfilment of which is dependent on the consent of the Congress, and the second is related to a \$75 million fund to make investments, which is a tiny amount to have any tangible effect if it were paid directly to our treasury.

There is almost nothing to predict in the media and information and culture spheres. The Israeli TV and broadcasting were always there. Peace may reduce their attractiveness as a source of information about Arab politicians' scandals. If anything, Israeli propaganda activities will become less sensational. Its only asset is the space it gives to the other opinion which we can and should listen to. As far as culture is concerned, Israel has next to nothing to offer and compete. Its language is heavily dependent on Arabic, and its intellectual life is dependent on the Western civilisation.

As far as national will is concerned, we have no problem. At least 80 per cent of the popular will agrees with the official line. This is so by all meaningful measures of the public opinion in the street as well as in Parliament. Consensus is not necessary in a democracy. The minority's objection to the treaty is not harmful as long as its means are legal and nonviolent. So far opposition did not create confusion. Basically, the interests of the country are well-defined and all parties care about the existence and well-being of the country and its role.

Planning for the future is an ongoing process. We should be convinced that others will not provide our needs on a silver platter. This is not essentially the responsibility of America, Europe, Japan, Israel or even the Arab Gulf states. Those who will help us are ourselves through hard work, perseverance and determination to rise up to the challenge and excel. The world will help us only if we help ourselves.

M. KAHN



The one-eyed king of real-time news coverage

LONDON — No president or prime minister will ever again enjoy what former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara remembers as the "six-day cocoon of time and privacy" afforded by the absence of television scrutiny which President Kennedy enjoyed in 1962 as he wrestled with the Cuban missile crisis. No foreign or defence minister can expect to repeat the experience of McNamara who did not switch on a television set once "during the whole two weeks of that crisis."

Indeed, no politician or official is today immune from the power of real-time TV news coverage from some far-flung crisis zone to influence policy-making. Yet having interviewed more than 100 diplomatic and military insiders, I conclude that the influence of TV news on foreign policy is not as profound as the conventional wisdom holds. A close review of the interactions between the media and policy shifts during the crisis in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda suggests otherwise. It suggests that instantaneous TV images of corpses littering roads or children on the brink of death from starvation may well induce policy panic, affect a government's tactics and lead to emergency humanitarian missions. But they rarely affect strategy.

The United States Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has directly cautioned against over-emphasising TV images in policy-making, sounding a strong note of resistance — a note increasingly heard in policy circles — against being swayed by the image. He recently told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "television is a wonderful phenomenon and sometimes an instrument of freedom. But television images cannot be the North Star of America's foreign policy." Rick Inderfurth, the Alternate U.S. representative to the United Nations, has offered arguably the most vivid illu-

Nik Gowing, the diplomatic editor of Britain's highly respected Channel Four News from Independent Television News (ITN), recently spent four months at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government's Shorenstein Barone Centre on Press, Politics and Public Policy, where he prepared the most empirical analysis to date on the influence of TV war coverage on foreign policy. The title of his study, from which the following is adapted, is Real Time Television Coverage of Armed Conflicts and Diplomatic Crises: Does It Pressure or Distort Foreign Policy Decisions? His answer: much less than most assume.

mination of the nature of the "fickle role of the media." "There are many times," he told me, "when there are horrific images and there is no policy impact. It is very difficult to work out and anticipate how the 'CNN factor' will come into play. It is like waking up with a big bruise, and you don't know where it came from or what hit you."

To grasp this new and complex interplay of media and policy, it is important to understand how the new technology drives real-time news coverage and how the relationship plays itself out in policy-making.

Decade of the dish

We are in the "Decade of the Dish." While the military arsenal contains the latest stealth and smart technology, the television journalist's arsenal contains a lap-top computer, a Marisat telephone, and a portable up-link satellite dish the size of a large umbrella. Real-time images are those television pictures beamed back live by satellite from a location. Alternatively they may have been taped a few minutes earlier, or perhaps an hour or two beforehand — but little more.

The presence of a satellite dish has created a new grammar and editorial agenda for TV news coverage. It is beamed out of a war zone virtually instantly without the dangerous challenge of dispatching video cassettes by road, air or sea — often through roadblocks and fighting — to a distant TV station. As the

image. Images cannot portray duration, a period of time. An image is an instant of time. For example, Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" cannot be translated into an image.

Certain determining policies are already implicitly included in electronic images. The world is presented in a certain way, and thus, when turning on the television, one has already made an ideological choice. Television itself is an ideology, but not the ideology of the progressives. As progressives we take an analytic position, we want to break down reality so we can understand it. Ours is a logical, unemotional, purposeful position, and not just a simple recording of reality. It is a position projecting to the future and not submitting to the present. The progressive position favours the collective over the individual order. The left (meaning the rationalistic left) was wrong for not taking technological tools seriously. We have made the big mistake of internalising a certain traditional humanism that sees tools as nothing more than an extension of the body. According to this concept, technology has inert and neutral means at its disposal. This isn't so. Tools are never neutral.

For instance, it is wrong to think of television as a sort of radio with images. Television is not a transposition of radio, just as radio is not a transposition of literature. Each form of communication presupposes a definition of man. Reality is a technical classification, and with each transmission technology modifies human reality itself. Today we are paying dearly for the traditional indifference we had toward cultural technologies. That neglect has had enormous political implications, especially in Italy. We have retreated and become blind. Events now take us by surprise.

There are undoubtedly certain things that images cannot convey. The image cannot show "humanity" or "the proletariat." It can show a worker, a man. In general, universal types cannot be depicted by an

New Perspective Quarterly.

Japan unsure what Clinton setback spells for ties

By Linda Sieg Reuter

TOKYO — A crushing defeat for President Bill Clinton in U.S. mid-term elections spells more uncertainty in trade ties with Japan, experts here said on Wednesday.

"Certainly there is a view that because domestic politics will become even more difficult for Clinton, he will have less time to pressure Japan," a Japanese government official said on Wednesday as news trickled in that Republicans looked set to win control of both houses of Congress.

"But it won't necessarily work that way when it comes to actual negotiations," Republican control of both houses of Congress would severely hurt Mr. Clinton's presidency and could spell two years of economic policy gridlock in Washington.

That, some economists in Tokyo said, could mean an easing of U.S. pressure on Japan on the trade front, as Mr. Clinton would be forced to turn most of his energies to domestic struggles.

"Domestic horse-trading in Washington will intensify... and foreign policy in general and Japan policy in particular are likely to fall by the wayside," said one foreign economist.

Japanese experts were less sanguine. "Already there had been criticism from Congress that Clinton's trade policy towards Japan has not produced results, and that is likely to increase," said Kazuaki Harada, chief economist at Sanwa Research Institute. "So the Clinton administration could take an even more aggressive stance."

"The more the U.S. domestic political situation gets confused, the more they are likely to get tough towards the outside," said diplomat-turned-consultant Yukio Okamoto.

Tokyo has already seen

Mr. Clinton's Japan policy shift, most recently in a somewhat more palatable direction.

Determined to take a different tack from his predecessors, Mr. Clinton made clear early on that economic issues would not take a back seat to the security considerations which at times in the past had led Washington to ease up on the trade front.

In July 1993 he launched with great fanfare the bilateral economic framework talks, an approach which insisted on concrete, measurable results from any trade deals.

That approach spawned months of haggling, as Japan dug in its heels and refused to accept what it feared were numerical trade targets which could prompt U.S. sanctions if not met.

On Oct. 1 the two sides clinched their first trade pact after 15 months of sparring, producing deals on access to Japan's government procurement and insurance markets that both sides claimed left their principles unscathed.

U.S. officials still talk of results, but in recent weeks have also begun speaking of "systemic" or "structural" issues like deregulation, terms reminiscent of the structural impediments initiative (SII) launched by Republican George Bush.

The shift in emphasis has been welcomed by some Japanese officials and many businessmen as it echoes domestic calls to cut through the red tape critics say strangles economic growth.

At the same time, experts said, Japan appears to be losing its status as the linchpin of Washington's Asian trade policy, which is turning instead towards other dynamic markets in the region. "I don't have the sense that Japan issues are on anybody's agenda, whether Democratic or Republican," said a U.S. businessman in Tokyo.

LETTERS

Mayo Clinic to work with Arab Centre

To the Editor:

WITH REFERENCE to a news item in the Jordan Times (Nov. 10-11), concerning the opening of two major hospitals by His Majesty the King, we would like to make the following comment.

In a quotation attributed to Dr. Daoud Hanania, the name of the Mayo Clinic was brought up as one of possible centres of excellence that the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery is intending to have close affiliation with. We would like to inform you that Dr. Hanania has already approached the Mayo Clinic with this regard, and was informed by the Mayo Clinic, that there was no intention by the Mayo Clinic to have such an affiliation with the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery as the Mayo Clinic is already committed to the Amman Diagnostic Clinic and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Dr. Hanania's persistence on mentioning the Mayo Clinic in the above mentioned context is considered as unjustified insinuations, leading to erroneous conclusions by the readers.

Dr. Jihad Barghouti, Chairman of the Board, Amman Diagnostic Clinic.

Journalist behind bars

To the Editor:

I AM NADA Hassan Al-Mowaswes, the wife of Abdul Rahman Al Emam Al Hussein, a journalist who is still in the difficult situation and emotional trauma my family, especially my two daughters, has been living for more than three years.

After the liberation of Kuwait, my husband, who was living in Kuwait city, received a telephone call from the local police station requesting him to report to the police station the next morning. My husband reported to the local police station the next morning and was arrested for 50 days.

Later, my husband and five other journalists were sentenced to death and was denied the right to appeal. Ten days later, the court reduced the sentence when the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdulla was commuted to life imprisonment.

I am not only suffering from the absence of the head of my family, but I also suffer from the pain of not being able to explain to my two daughters the whereabouts of their father and what has happened to him. I try my best not to hurt their feelings, and give them the hope of seeing their father.

My two daughters, Suzan and Yasmeen, my old parents-in-law, other family members and my self, are just living and waiting for the day of the return of Abdul Rahman.

Nada Hassan, Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address, as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Perspectives of the peace process



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FOLLOWING is the full text of an address given by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan yesterday to the roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process".

IT IS my pleasure to participate in the opening of this roundtable. Everyone here today has taken part, over the years, in the Middle East's search for peace. I cannot begin to tell you how much we have appreciated your involvement. I myself have spent time with many of you in the past, discussing the prospects for peace, and the potential for the future. Now, that future has arrived; and peace has finally come.

In three short years, the Middle East has been utterly transformed. The threshold has been attained and new vistas are opening up. The PLO and Israel, old adversaries, are now partners in peace-making. Their mutual recognition, and the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy accord, opened the way for this transformation — much still needs to be done. On the Syrian-Israeli track, recent statements from both parties indicate an acceptance of the necessity for peace, and the pragmatic considerations involved. We hope they and the Lebanon will find the common ground necessary to breathe the psychological barriers that exist on both sides. And for our part, we in Jordan have made our peace.

The treaty between Jordan and Israel, ladies and gentlemen, an historic achievement, and one that comes as the culmination of a long and complex process of negotiation. However, it is ultimately no more than an agreement between governments. True peace, it is often said, is peace between people. The question we must now address is how to bring about peace between people at all levels.

Some might say that the battle is over, that our work is done, and that we have earned the right to relax. But we in Jordan know full well that our work is only just beginning. In this new era of peace, the future is whatever we make of it. We have a unique opportunity to put into action our visions, to take part in shaping a new Middle East. At this moment in history, all of us can play a vital role. I for one take heart from the fact that so many of you have been able to come to Amman for this meeting. With this in mind, I would like to share with you a few of my thoughts on the human dimension of peace, and the kind of future that we in Jordan believe is worth working for.

First of all, the bad news.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has shattered the economies of the Middle East. The instability it engendered has prevented real development from touching the lives of many in our region. Massive and constant expenditure on arms has wasted our resources, preventing investment in more productive areas. This in turn has fostered addiction to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. The conflict has stunted economic growth and undermined international confidence. As a result, we see a region characterised by income disparities, unserviceable debt burdens and over-extended public sectors. We see widespread poverty, underemployment and underdeveloped educational and health systems. We do not, in short, see promising conditions for regional stability and prosperity, or for human development and happiness.

The economies of the region are certainly capable of growth that is rapid, widely shared and sustainable. Given the material and human resources of the Middle East, and the interest and assistance of the international community, I believe that our economies will recover, bringing great benefits to our peoples. But this will require time, valuable time which we can ill afford to bring home to the individual the impact of peace. Therefore careful planning and investment in a phased implementation approach is necessary.

It has been estimated that in order to improve living standards, economic growth should be 2-3 per cent higher than population growth. For our region, this means an average growth rate of 5-6 per cent or more. Naturally, we will do all we can to maintain macroeconomic stability, and will continue implementing the kind of legal, regulatory, administrative and fiscal reforms conducive to growth. The private sector must have the space to operate freely if domestic and foreign investment are to refresh our jaded economies. According to the European Union, Jordan is the most advanced country in the region in implementing market-oriented reforms.

However, to go back to the African joke about the much criticised IMF, "the patient died, but the patient died healthy."

The Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, held last month in Casablanca, paved the way

for a vital partnership between government and private business, as well as between states. We are now studying the options for financial mechanisms, such as the establishment of the Regional Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa. Jordan will be hosting the follow-up conference in spring 1995. We must over the next few months, prior to this follow-up conference develop a firm concept for this Regional Development Bank to ensure that it is not only regional in nature.

For we know investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples will be absolutely essential. We know that such projects must be founded upon sound concepts, and receive the support of international financial institutions, governments, businesses and multinational corporations alike. As a long term goal, we want to liberalise and we want to dismantle all barriers in the region whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. We have stated that a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of NAFTA or EFTA — is our objective. Different areas of the region are endowed with different resources: labour, capital technology and so forth. It is difficult to request \$3 billion for a regional development bank when the flight of capital, both government and private sector, out of the region is so high (in the range of \$100 billion). This vision of an open Middle East, unshackled from the bonds of conflict and free at last to play a dynamic and constructive role within the world economy, will be an attraction to capital not least of all from within the region. This has sustained us greatly on the path to peace, and will continue to inspire us in the future.

In all of these fields, the experience and assistance of the international community of nations, and the international business community, will be indispensable to the Middle East. However, the region itself must play a leading role in its reconstruction. We hope that the Amman Summit will be thematic. In addition we hope that the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) will hold their meeting here in Amman prior to the summit and will address a basket of inter-related issues, which must carry the human dimension. We enjoy a rare moment of opportunity, during which we can identify our priorities, and systematically set about realising them.

So what are the priority areas, which most directly touch human lives in our region? I would like to focus on population, education, employment and income, and to outline broad strategies for dealing with these issues.

The combined population of the Arab countries was estimated at 224 million in 1990, and is expected to reach about 288 million by the end of the century. The average population growth rate is 2 per cent. At present rates, the Arab countries will double their population in only 23 years. As a consequence of these dangerously high rates of growth, around 45 per cent of the population in the Middle East and North Africa is below 15 years old.

These simple demographic factors have far-reaching implications which must be addressed sooner rather than later. The strain on basic resources — food, water and energy — is increasing all the time. The pressure on social services is equally great. We look with great interest at the equivalent of Sarajevo fund for Gaza. I am pleased to see that U.N. representatives are taking steps to develop an integrated human dimension U.N. approach to address developments and improvements in Gaza. This approach must not be localised. The international community's expressions of sympathy and support for endangered groups of people are commendable but this form of selective adoption cannot become a substitute for a broad approach. Clearly, governments have a responsibility to address this fundamental issue.

If governments genuinely set out to limit population growth and to ameliorate its impact, exercising great political will and leadership, the situation is not beyond hope. When we look at U.N. sponsored conferences and U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations we hope that the human content will be evident. Health and education initiatives, particularly for women, are central. (Commending the work of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and the work of the NGOs in Jordan in this regard.)

I mentioned the impact of population on education. But education is of itself a priority issue for the developing world. In 1990, around 70 million Arabs, or 57.6 per cent of the population aged 15 and above, were still illiterate, although the rates fluctuate widely throughout the region. Recent studies confirm the importance of education, and particularly primary education, for economic and human develop-

ment. Education will also play a role in promoting peace, and fostering understanding of national and regional issues. (Acknowledged the presence of the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference: the region as Middle East and North Africa must be "inclusive" not "exclusive", ie to include Iran and Turkey. In addition a refer-

ence was made to the difficulty of defining "region" for the proposed Regional Development Bank.)

I have been involved in the reform and improvement of the educational system which will result in a more skilled and productive workforce, and may help to tackle the issues of poverty alleviation and unemployment. Poverty has been generally increasing in the Middle East since the 1980s and is unlikely to decrease appreciably in the foreseeable future. Prevailing patterns of development do not allow the creation of adequate job opportunities for the poor. While education can contribute to the elimination of poverty, it must be coupled with the elimination of labour market barriers if its full benefits are to be realised in terms of increased earnings.

Unemployment rates, ladies and gentlemen, in the Middle East, which average about 20 per cent, pose another long-term threat to social stability. Given the region's unusual demography, the 15-25 age group is vastly over-represented among the unemployed. While one can point to macroeconomic imbalances, over-enthusiastic government interventions and supply side structural problems, relatively low investment levels play a large part in the phenomenon of Middle East unemployment. It is estimated that investment levels need to increase from their current level of 20 per cent of GDP to about 30 per cent to generate the kind of growth that would provide adequate job opportunities. In considering how to en-

sure such growth, it is worth also considering the issue of income disparities. One consequence of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been the rise of disparities both within the region, and between the region and the developed world. The World Bank estimates that by 2010, seven million Israelis will achieve a GDP nearly equal to that of 130 million Arabs in neigh-

bouring countries. These gaps are similar to the gap separating Europe and the Arab countries south of the Mediterranean. Average income levels are over \$12,000 per capita in Israel, a major aid recipient, while that of the Mashreq Arabs is no more than \$800. The existence of such disparities militates against a sustainable peace, providing ammunition for those who reject it. And the main casualty of these disparities is, as always, the process of human development.

In tackling such issues as population, education, unemployment and income disparities, my belief is that it will be necessary to develop an inter-disciplinary perspective, rather than concentrating on each issue in isolation. It will also be necessary to develop a regional perspective, rather than a country-by-country approach. These issues are inter-linked, influencing one another. They respect no boundaries, whether conceptual or geographical, and cannot therefore be dealt with separately.

In more concrete terms, ladies and gentlemen, there is no shortage of worthwhile proposals. I would like to mention the suggestion of establishing a Regional Human Development Centre. Such a centre would serve as a forum for policy coordination in areas such as education, health, poverty, unemployment and so forth. It would be a source of information, and could help design regional projects in the area of human resource development, as well as facilitate



private sector participation and collaboration.

Institutions of that kind can make a very solid contribution to a warm peace between people. The post-peace era should be characterised by a fresh outlook that can enrich the human communities in the region. This will require full coordination between all the agencies involved: U.N. agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs. I would like to salute the work of NGOs in Jordan, the occupied territories and the region (eg ANERA). I hope that the proposed Regional Human Development Centre will not be reminiscent of our work in Independent Commission for Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) where we attempted to lobby for the powerless and instead became the powerless lobby for the powerless. It pleases me to note in this context that Jordanian NGOs are becoming more prominent within Jordanian civil society. As part of the long-term process of institution building, such developments will ultimately contribute more to a lasting peace than documents agreed by governments.

In all of this, it is important to distinguish between ends and means. People are not solely economic entities; they are more than instruments for producing commodities. Human beings must not be seen merely as the means of production and prosperity. The end towards which all of our efforts are focused must surely be the quality of human life, and this is shaped by intangible as well as material considerations. For example, when we

speak of the human dimension of peace, are we paying enough attention to questions of religion and culture? The Middle East region has been a cross-roads of civilisation, and the birth place of the three great monotheistic religions. In the past five decades, we have hardly been worthy of this legacy. Free access to religious, historical and cultural sites must be ensured. Passage to pilgrimage is a human right. Peace building has to respect peoples' spiritual needs. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty recognises that the parties are committed to promoting inter-faith relations between the faiths.

But again, when we speak of the human dimension of peace, are we considering the importance of human and civil rights of the individual? During the conflict, state security was the prime objective of government. In an era of peace building, modes of governance in this region can allow for greater popular participation. The political map of the Middle East will be utterly changed by the end of the conflict. We must institutionalise popular pluralism and civil involvement. A commitment to basic human rights, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, culture and gender, is likewise crucial. Such considerations, intangible, unmeasurable by economic indices, yet fundamental to the quality of life, are the core of the human dimension of peace.

We are entering a new era. For the sake of all our futures, we must enter it together. Thank you.

King, Juan Carlos hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

accompanied by Foreign Minister Javier Solana and Minister of State for Foreign Trade Apolonio Ruiz.

King Juan Carlos will stay on in Jordan to celebrate King Hussein's 59th birthday in Amman on Monday.

King Juan Carlos visited the tombs of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, King Talal Ben Abdullah and Queen Zein Al Sharaf. The Spanish monarch laid wreaths of flowers on the tombs.

He also visited the Martyrs' Monument.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor on a visit to the Jordan Valley later in Friday.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were briefed by Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat on projects carried out in the Valley over

the past 20 years.

Dr. Irshaidat said he hoped that the European Union, which has fully supported the peace process, would offer financial and technical assistance to Jordan, and voiced hope that Spain, which has good relations with Jordan would contribute to such schemes.

Planning Minister Hisham Al Khatib also briefed the Spanish royal couple on future projects which will be carried out to develop the Jordan Valley, of which the most important will be building dams for storing water and pumping it to Amman, developing the Dead Sea beach, digging a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea and treating the Jordan River water for agricultural uses.

The Spanish royal couple and Queen Noor also visited the Dead Sea area and were briefed on plans to develop it.

PNA detains Islamists

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian authority and on the other hand what to give it to allow it to stand on its own," Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio.

"We must make a supreme effort to allow the Palestinian authority to provide a reasonable subsistence, otherwise their support will fall," he said.

Mr. Peres said it was impossible to fight "kamikazes" with weapons or intelligence.

"A supreme effort is needed to allow the Palestinian Authority to carry out economic development in the Gaza Strip, where more than 800,000 people live in dreadful conditions," Mr. Peres said.

"The improvement of economic conditions will help to reduce the people's support

for the terrorists," he added.

Mr. Peres ruled out any major army operation in the Strip. "The problem is above all to gather the maximum amount of intelligence to arrest those responsible for suicide attacks before they happen," he said.

Israel should also "demand that Palestinian security services do all they can to obtain this information, because we are dealing with increasingly dangerous terrorist organisations."

The Jihad said the blast was in revenge for the killing of one of its leaders, Hani Abed, 10 days ago in a car-bomb blast. All Palestinian factions blamed Israel for Abed's death.

But Mr. Peres refused to comment on the alleged Israeli involvement in the car-bombing in the Gaza Strip.

Confrontation could spark strife

(Continued from page 1)

already an understanding between Mr. Arafat and Hamas for the latter to carry out attacks against Israel inside the autonomous areas.

Obviously Mr. Arafat did not get such a commitment or an understanding from Islamic Jihad, which even went further in embarrassing the Palestinian leader by staging a large demonstration on Friday to announce and celebrate the attack.

Islamic Jihad was apparently convinced that it had evidence that Israel used local collaborators to plant the bomb on Abed's car. It had already called on the PNA to track down these collaborators, something that Mr. Arafat is prohibited from doing. The Cairo agreement with Israel stipulates that the PNA guarantee the safety of collaborators.

On Friday, there were widespread reports in Gaza that Islamic Jihad has already killed a collaborator and the Palestinian security could not even move against the movement for fear of sparking riots.

The Jordan Times talked to eyewitnesses who said they saw the family of the killed collaborator attacking the Shifa Hospital Friday morning to retrieve the body.

Islamic Jihad activists, a few days before Abed's assassination, including Abed himself in his office, expected Israel to wage an annihilation war against them and Hamas. Consequently, Islamic Jihad might have decided to send another message to Israel warning it that it will hit back.

But Islamic Jihad has chosen a military as

opposed to a purely civilian target and one that is seen by Gazans as a symbol of continuous Israeli control of Gaza in spite of the presence of the Palestinian authority.

The Netzarim checkpoint is a constant reminder of Israeli occupation and settlements since it is located between Rafah and Khan Younis. All Palestinians travelling between Gaza to Rafah are stopped by Israeli soldiers.

The Netzarim point has witnessed many incidents in the past months starting from Israeli settlers shooting at the car of Sami Abu Samhadaneh, a prominent local Fatah leader, in July, and numerous Israeli checking of cars and attempts to confiscate weapons from Palestinian security men in mufti. The Israelis also arrested a Palestinian activist of the opposition Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) at Netzarim two months ago as he was returning from Gaza one evening.

Consequently, the incident could be used by the PNA negotiators to push for the removal of settlements although most probably, as many Gazans fear, the Israelis will successfully impose new security arrangements.

In the meantime, Gaza will have to go through tense days and nights, with hopes that the situation will not evolve into a confrontation.

As in similar situations in the past, Gazans are gripped by tension borne of fear of civil infighting and an Israeli return to the Strip and resentment of the widely perceived role of the PNA as an agent for Israeli occupation.

Gazans would not bitterly that the Palestinian security forces hardly moved to investigate the Abed assassination, and for the first 24 hours, no senior PNA official or security officer turned up at the Abed family residence to pay condolences or even to ask questions.

Many Gazans contrasted such behaviour to the Hamas abduction of an Israeli soldier last month. Gazans recall the extensive house searches, interrogations, arrests and the many checkpoints that were erected everywhere following the kidnapping.

"Gaza looked as if it was under a heavy military curfew," a young local Fatah activist told the Jordan Times soon after the failed Israeli attempt to save the kidnapped soldier.

What many Gazans concluded after the Abed assassination was that the Palestinian security forces did not feel as responsible or perhaps capable to do much at that point to find the killers.

Thus, by the time Mr. Arafat returned to Gaza from Casablanca after a short stop over in Cairo, emotions were running high among Gazans, Islamists in particular.

It is not clear yet if the negative reception that Mr. Arafat had never been faced with before in his history as the PLO leader had registered as an expression of protest — as it really was — or if Arafat advisors have convinced him that it was a gang of irresponsible elements as the Palestinian press called the angry mourners.

Analysts and even some PNA officials believe that Mr. Arafat is heading towards a disaster if he did not take the protest of the mourners as a serious warning of what to come. In both cases, however, Mr. Arafat will be faced again and again with the catch 22

situation in which the Cairo agreement has placed the PNA. According to the terms of the Cairo agreement, the PNA is responsible for stopping attacks against Israeli settlements but the PNA does not have much power to protect the Palestinians.

The awkward equation of the Cairo agreement, according to Palestinian analyst Ghassan Al Khatib, has created "a recipe for civil war." Events in the last months indicate that Mr. Arafat will have to continue to walk a tight rope between averting a civil war and appeasing the Israelis — unless he is forced to make a choice.

Roundtable on human dimension

(Continued from page 1)

It is also the first major event organised by the Institute of Diplomacy, whose executive head is Dr. Mazen Amrout.

Among the participants in the meeting are Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) General Secretary Hamid Algabid, World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Iler Turkmen, the head of the International Organisation for Migration, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who also heads the non-governmental organisation Care, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State and Middle East expert Richard Murphy, and senior officials from various United Nations agencies as well as international and regional organisations.

The working session of the roundtable was closed to the press.

Victoria Riap, area representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, who served as rapporteur of Saturday's first working session of the roundtable, briefed the press Saturday evening on what had transpired during the day's meetings.

Ms. Riap said there appeared to be a consensus that peace is meant for the people and that investment means investment in the human being.

Ms. Riap underlined the key points raised by the speakers of the day.

She quoted Dr. Nakajima of WHO as emphasising that the Middle East peace process required an organised and systematic approach with equitable development. This should be more easily facilitated by the freeing of resources formerly channelled into military expenditure.

Dr. Nakajima also spoke of the necessity for "health for all" and pointed to current efforts exerted by WHO in the West Bank and Gaza in establishing health care facilities and acquiring financial aid for the Palestine self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

Connie Peck, coordinator of Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, stressed the need to prevent conflicts which, she believes, evolve from the violation of basic human needs.

Dr. Peck explained how societies become entrapped in a "conflict cycle" leading to conflict escalation. She recommended that policymakers should adopt ways of de-escalation and should focus on problem-solving methods, including recognising the needs of both parties and finding a balance between them.

Dr. Algabid of the OIC told the gathering that the essence of the Middle East problem was the Palestinian question. The Palestinian

people, he said, had become refugees and until this issue was dealt with, a just and comprehensive peace had yet to be achieved.

Dr. Algabid added that for such a peace to exist in this region Israel must withdraw all its forces from occupied Palestine, including Jerusalem, and from other occupied Arab land.

Ms. Riap also highlighted the areas of significance as addressed by Senator Kamel Abu Jaber, a former foreign minister of Jordan who led the Jordanian delegation to the international conference in Madrid where Arab-Israeli peace talks were launched in October 1991.

Dr. Abu Jaber spoke of the trauma suffered by Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis alike and the challenge this poses to those addressing the situation.

In conclusion Dr. Abu Jaber said that peace being alien to this region necessitated the convening of national debates to discuss the meaning of peace, analyse the views of the rejectionists and to reaffirm the importance of stability and the importance of the individual's role in maintaining that stability.

The roundtable continues today.

Opposition

(Continued from page 1)

the wisdom of these procedures since they can only offend the people and create unnecessary tension.

"In its quest to prevent 'problems', the government is creating problems," said Mustafa Hamameh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

In light of obvious support the treaty has, he said, there was no need for the procedures the government has adopted.

Kuwait plans big 25% spending cuts on projects

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Saturday announced plans for a 25 per cent cut in spending on construction and other projects in which analysts saw as an attempt to reduce the budget deficit and pay new costs arising from recent tension with Iraq.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan, outlining what could be a big setback for foreign contractors, said he had asked the cabinet to approve the cuts for the current 1994/1995 fiscal year and said they had been made necessary by urgent spending needs.

He declined to elaborate when asked if he was referring to the hundreds of millions of dollars Kuwait is due to pay for allied support following Iraq's border buildup in October.

He also announced Kuwait would repay on schedule a \$5.5 billion loan — at that time the largest ever made to a sovereign state — agreed with international commercial banks after the 1991 Gulf war to meet emergency reconstruction costs.

Sheikh Rodhan declined to give a figure for the expenditure cuts or say whether they would affect the crucial oil sector, source of 90 per cent of export earnings, but said no contracts that had already been signed would be affected.

Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Mudej told Reuters last month that there would be no cuts in development spending on oil.

"I don't think they will cut oil work. That would be short-sighted, kind of like killing the goose that lays the



Nasser Al Rodhan

golden egg. All the oil projects they have on the board are money earners," a Western oil expert.

"The cuts could be (related to allied military support), but the government also wants to get rationalise spending and get it in line with revenue. This has been done this year by other Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, which made a 20 per cent across the board reduction," said Amer Al Tamimi, chairman of the Kuwaiti Economists' Society.

Kuwait has been considering cutting spending a raising revenue to meet part of the cost of deploying Western and Arab forces that countered Iraq's 10-day border buildup.

"That (cut) is the subject of a letter from the finance minister to the cabinet to cut some of the expenditure (allocations) by 25 per cent," Sheikh Rodhan said by telephone.

"The nature of these ex-

penditure allocations means there will be no effect on the level of the services the state provides. The cut will be in allocations for (construction) projects where contracts have not yet been signed," he said.

He added cuts would also be made in equipment procurement and "miscellaneous expenses" — a part of the budget that has sometimes been used in part for defence expenses.

"The cut aims at meeting urgent expenditure," he added.

Diplomats had expected more than \$700 million in major oil sector work alone to be awarded in the coming months.

"Expenditure shall be directed in a special way. The aim of this cut is keeping the budget as it is," Sheikh Rodhan said, indicating he wished to control expenditure and a projected 1994/95 budget deficit of 1,502 billion dinars (\$5 billion).

Sheikh Rodhan added Kuwait would pay its jumbo loan on time, dispelling speculation the emirate might reschedule.

"The decision of the board of directors (of the Kuwait Investment Authority or KIA) puts an end to all that has been said," Sheikh Rodhan said. The KIA, which Sheikh Rodhan chairs, manages the country's external debt.

Kuwait in June 1995 is due to repay the first \$2.357 billion instalment of principal on a \$5.5 billion loan signed with international banks on Dec. 12, 1991 to help fund emergency spending on post-Gulf war reconstruction.

Experts say Egypt faces catastrophe if pound not devalued

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt will face a catastrophe if it fails to fulfil demands by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to devalue the Egyptian pound, according to Western economic experts.

Egypt and the IMF resumed talks here Tuesday, during a visit by IMF Deputy Executive Director, Stanley Fisher. Discussions had been deadlocked since IMF Director General Michel Camdessus visited Cairo on the sidelines of the U.N. World Population Conference.

"Fundamental differences remain, especially concerning the exchange rate," said one senior official who asked not to be named. An IMF mission is due to visit Cairo, but no date has been set.

In July the IMF refused to give the green light to write off \$4 billion of debt, which the Paris Club of public creditors had called for. The IMF was dissatisfied with Egypt's implementation of reforms stipulated by an accord signed in 1991.

According to one Western economic expert, the IMF is proposing an immediate 20 to 25 per cent devaluation of the Egyptian pound or a progressive devaluation over 12 to 18 months.

"A devaluation is necessary," the expert said. "Apart from oil, Egypt is exporting less than it did 10 years ago in real terms. It is a unique case."

Egypt's real competitiveness has decreased by 25 to

40 per cent 1991, he said, citing a joint IMF-Egyptian central bank study completed in August.

"The portion of non-oil exports in the gross domestic product represents barely more than four per cent, compared with six per cent in 1987-88," the expert said.

In 1991, the IMF forecast that non-oil exports would reach \$2.98 billion for fiscal 1993-94. But in fact they will only reach \$1.61 billion — less than when the reforms started in 1990-91, when they represented \$1.98 billion.

"Apart from oil, Egypt does not export much more than Syria, whose total gross domestic product is a quarter of Egypt's, and it exports half as much as Tunisia and 10

times less than Turkey," the expert said.

In relation to the increase in the value of the Egyptian pound, non-oil exports have dropped by 21 per cent over the past three years.

According to the expert, the pound increased in value against the dollar by \$3.5 per cent in real terms in the past year, and by 21.6 per cent between June 1991 and June 1994. The Egyptian pound currently trades at 3.39 to the dollar.

The expert said the increase was due to the rise in interest rates in real terms. The rate for three-month treasury bonds stood at 3.94 per cent in July, compared with 2.8 per cent in July 1993.

"Interest rates have never been so high before. They are burdening the real economy for the sake of the financial sector," the expert said. "Egypt is doing serious harm to its credit abroad and an accord with the IMF would enable it to put its image right."

This year, direct investment will amount to less than \$400 million — half the amount invested in Chile and one-sixth of the investments in Indonesia.

"The Chilean president, General Augusto Pinochet, said in 1981 he would rather cut off one arm than devalue. But later he did devalue, and he still has both his arms," the expert joked.

Vatican expects \$22.4m deficit next year

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — The Vatican budget is expected to be in the red by \$22.36 million next year, U.S. Cardinal Edmund Szoka announced here Friday in presenting the 1995 budget.

The equivalent of a finance minister, the cardinal noted that last year, for the first time in two decades, the Vatican had managed to turn in a surplus of \$1.5 million, thanks to favourable monetary changes, but no such fluctuations are expected for 1995.

The final deficit or surplus for this year will not be known until next spring.

Cardinal Szoka said he was satisfied with the forecasts for next year, in view of the fact that the deficit in 1991 had hit \$63 million.

The consolidated budget is

for 49 entities of the Roman Curia grouped into six administrations. The cardinal said it was almost impossible to predict receipts for next year with reasonable accuracy, "since they come from sources we do not control."

As to the Vatican's financial activity, he said it was connected "with market forces that are difficult to foresee, and which may change during the year". Part of the Holy See's securities are foreign and hence are affected by exchange rate fluctuations, he noted.

Forecasts for receipts next year amount to \$35.6 million, against \$57.2 million in 1993. Receipts next year from the property sector are put at \$15.2 million against \$14 million last year.

U.S. Republican Senator Helms vows to slash foreign aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Far-right Republican Senator Jesse Helms says he will slash foreign aid when he takes over the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January after his party's landslide victory in the congressional elections.

The 73-year-old firebrand from North Carolina also told reporters that he would strive to reduce U.S. contributions to the United Nations, which he called "that nemesis of millions of Americans."

Mr. Helms and other Republican lawmakers, who for the first time in 40 years will control both houses of Congress after their stunning victory over the Democrats in Tuesday's mid-term elections, laid out their plans for

the future.

Slated to take over Democrat Claiborne Pell's job in the Senate in January, Mr. Helms sent shudders down the spine of moderate and liberal politicians in Washington.

In announcing plans to cut foreign aid, he criticised the current programme for spending "an estimated \$2 trillion of the American taxpayers' money, much of it going down foreign rat holes."

Mr. Helms apparently was referring to the total foreign aid spent since Democrats have controlled the Congress, which last year approved \$12 billion, most of it for Israel, Egypt and Russia.

slash taxes and eliminate the budget deficit.

"Now that they have the power they have got to exercise some leadership responsibility in this country," a disappointed White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, a Democrat, said.

Armed with a "contract with America" that was signed by 330 Republican candidates, Mr. Gingrich said he was willing to make clear his first priority was fulfilling his party's promises.

"Our first obligation as a party in the House is going to be to actually honour the contract," Mr. Gingrich said. "We have an obligation to keep our word."

The contract — which was denounced by Mr. Clinton and the Democrats during the campaign as voodoo economics and a return to the bloated deficits of the 1980s — promises a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, higher defence spending and cuts in several taxes, including capital gains.

Pyongyang again rebuffs S. Korean overtures

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Saturday underscored its rejection of recent South Korean appeals for economic cooperation between the two rival states.

Calls by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam for closer economic ties merely "recognised the debate of his treacherous confrontation policy against the North and it contains nothing concrete or new and is not worth a passing note," said Pyongyang's official media, monitored in Tokyo.

The reports, carried by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), said Mr. Kim's proposed lifting of a two-year freeze on North-South contacts "is intended for a propaganda effect."

It was the second time in two days that isolated and impoverished North Korea has snubbed Mr. Kim's calls to open up economic ties.

Russian economic 'troika' promises stabilisation

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's new economic "troika" led by liberal First Deputy Premier Alexander Chubais promised Friday to make 1995 a year of financial stabilisation and reform.

In his first news conference following a cabinet reshuffle, the youthful Chubais, promoted last week from the post of privatisation minister, said the second stage of reforms would start in 1995 with the blessing of President Boris Yeltsin.

"The main task of the government is to ensure a breakthrough towards stabilisation in the economy, financial areas and all other sectors," Mr. Chubais said.

"I've met President Boris Yeltsin and he is in favour of implementing the next stage of reform. We must work to ensure a turnaround towards economic development, improve the living standards of our people and promote private investments," he pointed out.

Mr. Chubais was flanked by the new Finance Minister

Vladimir Panskov and Economics Minister Yevgeny Yasin at the news conference held to outline government economic policies.

The three stressed unity in the cabinet over the need for tough deflationary policies.

Top Kremlin officials have questioned the government's tough target to bring down monthly inflation to one per cent by the end of next year compared to October's 15 per cent — a central feature of the draft austerity budget for 1995.

Mr. Yeltsin's economic aide Alexander Livshits said this week that plans to cut inflation to Western levels were unrealistic.

But Mr. Chubais said: "I do not support attempts to pit economic experts of the government against economic experts of the president. All changes in the Russian government are not only approved but also analysed by the presidential administration."

Mr. Yasin added: "Our common position as the gov-



Yevgeny Yasin

ernment is tough. We want to stick to the main principles of the budget. Inflationary expectations are on the decrease. This will be reinforced as a result of tough monetary policies."

Mr. Yasin said macro-economic stabilisation and the creation of a favourable

investment climate were economic policy priorities.

Mr. Panskov added: "The government has been established and revised in order to create a unified policy."

The promotion of Mr. Chubais was hailed by free-marketters. But bankers say his responsibilities are spread rather thin.

Mr. Chubais, who as privatisation minister almost single-handedly managed the biggest sell-off campaign in history, said he would be in charge of reforms.

But bankers say the jury is still out on the government's reformist credentials after the promotion of conservative Foreign Trade Minister Oleg Davydov to deputy premier and the recent naming of a not-so-liberal agriculture minister.

Mr. Davydov, who has been named chief debt negotiator, caused alarm among international financiers earlier this year when he suggested Russia should not pay part of its foreign debts.

Bankers say recent cabinet shake-ups have strengthened Mr. Yeltsin's hand in economic management. Both Mr. Panskov and Mr. Yasin were plucked from Mr. Yeltsin's administration. Yet bankers say it is unclear which direction the president intends to move in.

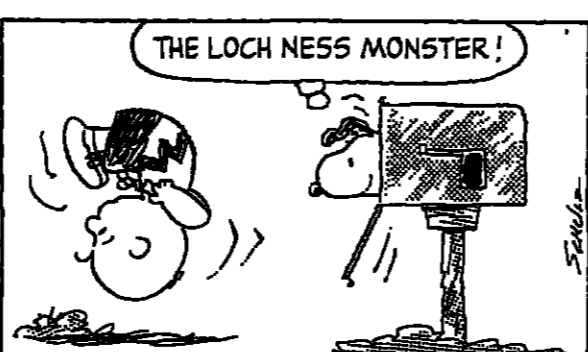
Some fear Mr. Yeltsin, with an eye to presidential and parliamentary elections due in the next two years, may be seeking to appease conservative and nationalist opposition.

The coming weeks will probably see a bitter struggle between the government and parliament over the 1995 budget.

The State Duma, or lower house of parliament, opposes a draft budget which calls for tight spending controls to reduce the budget deficit.

Mr. Chubais and Mr. Panskov vowed the government would not give ground. "Certain amendments may be made (in the budget), but we will not change the main direction of government policy," Mr. Chubais said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

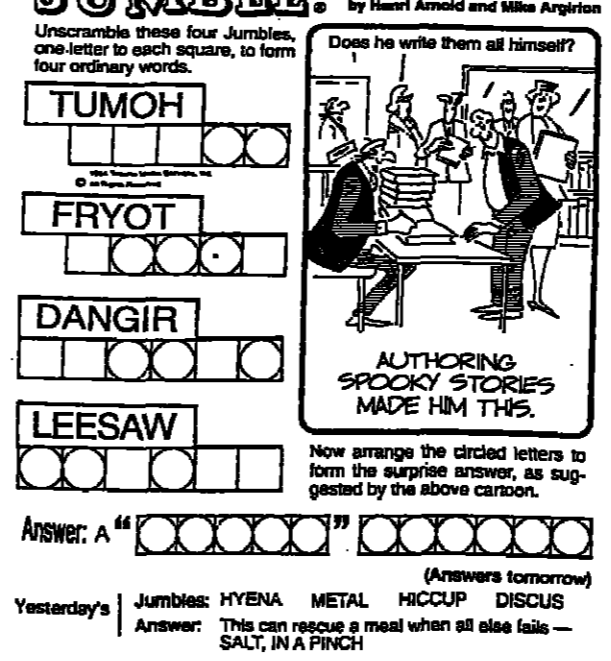


THE BETTER HALF.



"Can't you just give me a nice foot massage without saying something gross about each little piggy?"

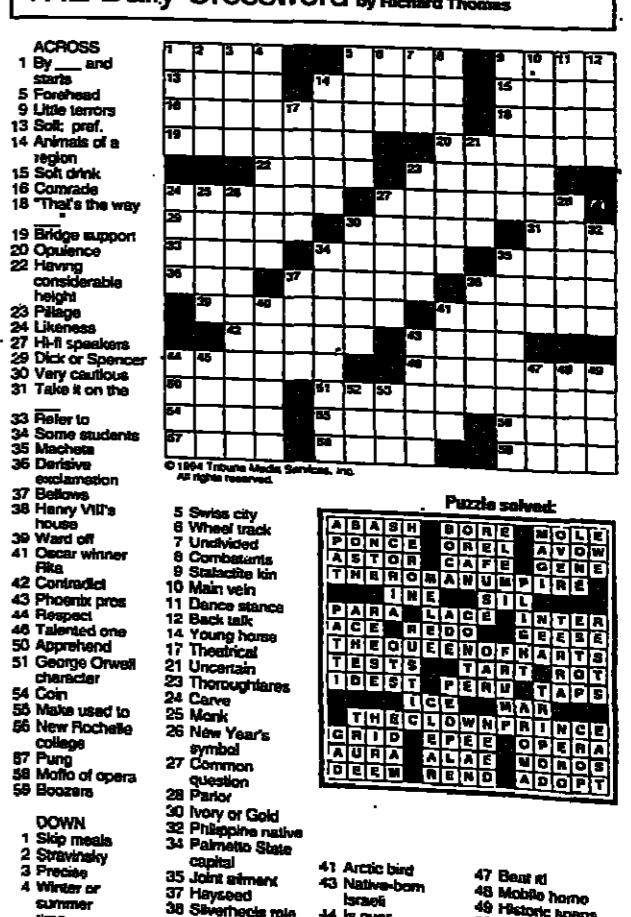
JUMBLE



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1994
By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make an early decision about what you want to do and then be off to pleasure or cultural activities in a happy and positive fashion. Be the shining light in your group. Make certain everyone has a good time.
ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can have an earnest and productive talk with those with whom you work side-by-side during the day but tonight study ways to improve alliances.
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time to find out what you can arrange with persons who charm you in coming recreations, tonight be steady, don't take chances with your mate.
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get into all points and issues with family that require some clarification during the daytime while tonight don't get yourself in debt in anyway.
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can locate all kinds of data and information: you desire still sound when you would be wise to keep matters at your residence on an even keel.
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Getting into every aspect of your present financial condition is advisable so you can leave more to spend in the future, tonight put economy into active effect.
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whomever you want some favour of a personal nature from will be willing to listen to your wants now, tonight don't spend more than you can afford on a pleasure.
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Have a fine time arranging some upcoming happy moments with one you love the most today but tonight plans can go awry if family members get in the way.
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make a particular point to let good friends know what you have in mind in your joint association during the day but tonight discount unpleasant messages.
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Sit down with one who can help you in some worldly matter of importance to you and you get support, tonight is no time to take chances with money.
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) One you have recently met and you can have a most enlightening discussion during the daytime but tonight don't try to put ideas across until you know more.
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your day and your mates to find out just where you stand with one another and to iron out any differences, tonight don't fret over a private anxiety.
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind in a partnership arrangement can be carried during the daytime, then tonight find a wise to avoid a depressed friend.
Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



Financial Markets			
Jordan Times			
In co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close	New York Close	New York Close
	10/11/94	11/11/94	11/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6000	1.5969	
Deutsche Mark	1.5285	1.5313	
Swiss Franc	1.2835	1.2831	
French Franc	5.2565	5.2540	
Japanese Yen	97.75	97.73	
European Currency Unit	1.2440	1.2438	
* USD Per STG			
** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT			
Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.00	5.56	5.87 6.25
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.87	6.12 6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06 5.33
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.65	3.87 4.31
French Franc	5.25	5.45	5.68 6.12
Japanese Yen	5.16	5.16	5.31 5.62
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.93	6.18 6.75
* Interbank bid rates for money provided U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 12/11/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970	
Sterling Pound	1.1087	1.1142	
Deutsche Mark	0.4555	0.4558	
Swiss Franc	0.5413	0.5440	
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326	
Japanese Yen	0.7106	0.7142	
Dutch Guilder	0.4044	0.4064	
Swedish Krona	0.0443	0.0445	
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445	
Belgian Franc	0.0443	0.0445	
* To 100			
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8460	
Lebanese Lira	0.041050	0.042340	
Saudi Riyal	0.1844	0.1858	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3650	
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1912	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.7800	1.8140	
UAE Dirham	0.1680	0.1996	
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3235	
Cypriot Pound	1.4350	1.5350	

Strong yen deepens Mazda motor loss

TOKYO (AFP) — The strength of the yen was a key factor behind a worsening of losses at Mazda Motor Corp. the company said when it reported an interim pre-tax loss of 28.6 billion yen (\$286 million).

For the same period of last year the company had reported a loss of 15.5 billion yen.

Mazda said that sales for the period had fallen by two per cent from the figure a year earlier to 858.9 billion yen.

Efforts to increase productivity and reduce costs had not offset "influences of a dramatic appreciation in the value of the yen and a decline in total factory unit sales," the company said.

Mazda's vehicle sales in Japan dipped by 0.5 per cent to 206,983 units, with sales of passenger cars falling 7.4 per cent to 145,837 units.

Its overseas vehicle sales decreased by 2.1 per cent to 289,627 units as exports of cars sagged 1.5 per cent to 250,607 units.

Mazda President Yoshihiro Wada said the company hoped to contain its pre-tax loss for the full year to March at 33 billion yen as expected.

"The business environment will remain challenging due to continuing appreciation of the yen as well as severe competition among manufacturers in Japan and overseas," Mr. Wada said.

"Mazda will accelerate various cost reduction measures with our commitment of minimising the amount of losses for the current fiscal year," he said.

U.S. set to benefit more than Japan, less than EU from GATT

GENEVA (AFP) — The removal of obstacles to trade under a world-wide deal reached at the beginning of this year will benefit the European Union most, but the United States should draw 4.5 times more benefit than Japan, GATT experts have said.

The so-called Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation measures would give an astonishing impulse to wealth-creation, but in 10 years' time, figures from the GATT showed Thursday.

The effect of measures to remove barriers to trade in goods alone would increase world income by \$510 billion a year once their full impact is felt from 2005.

Experts behind the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said that the so-called Uruguay Round of measures would, in fact, have a far greater effect since undertakings had been given by the 125 participating countries to reduce impediments to the trade in services.

The rules regulating trade had also been tightened up and countries which breached them with unilateral action to protect trade would be subject to more severe penalties than had been the case before.

The Uruguay Round agreement must be ratified by each participant and there is strong opposition to ratification within the U.S. Congress. About 30 countries have ratified so far.

The GATT estimated that once the measures had come fully into force, the economy of the European Union would benefit to the extent of \$164 billion per year, the U.S. economy by \$122 billion, Japan \$27 billion and developing or transitional economies by \$116 billion.

The report noted that developed countries had agreed to reduce their customs tariffs on industrial goods from an average of 8.3 per cent to 6.3 per cent.

The proportion of industrial goods entering developed countries free of duty from whatever source would rise to 44 per cent of all such products from 20 per cent before the agreement was signed.

In the agricultural sector alone, governmental subsidies for export would be reduced by 36 per cent from \$22.5 billion to \$14.5 billion.

This would be particularly marked in the European Union, which would cut such subsidies by \$4 billion, representing half of the total reduction, mainly in the sectors of beef, wheat, butter and dairy products.

EU export subsidies would fall from \$13.274 billion to \$8.496 billion.

State support for national agriculture would be cut by 18 per cent from \$197 billion to \$162 billion, owing mainly to cuts of 17 per cent within the EU from \$92.39 billion now to \$76.9 billion.

Japan would reduce aid to its farmers by 20 per cent from \$35.5 billion to \$28.4 billion.

UAE banks focus on retail business

DUBAI (R) — Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are starting to focus on retail banking for increasingly sophisticated clients after years of virtual dependence on trade finance, bankers said.

"Traditionally in this region banks have been involved in trade finance-related business, and to a lesser extent in real estate and industry," Mashreq Bank chief executive Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair told Reuters.

"But there has been a growing awareness that the retail sector is a good one to be in," he added of the banking service designed to meet daily needs of individuals and businesses.

Retail banking is well established in most Western economies where banks have begun to focus on new business like derivatives while up to 60 per cent of potential clients are believed still outside the banking system in Gulf states like the UAE, bankers said.

Although trade finance still accounts for the lion's share of business in the UAE, bankers said competition between banks for retail clients was steadily growing, and resulting in a wider and more sophisticated product range.

"This is particularly true in an environment of rising interest rates, when banks' margins are being squeezed," Standard Chartered Bank regional chief executive, Andrew Prebble said.

"But trade finance is going to remain banks' main business here, as trade is the lifeblood of the UAE," he said.

Last year the non-oil sector contributed 60 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP), official figures show.

In Dubai — the second largest of the seven emirates, of the UAE and its busy trading hub — the non-oil sector's contribution was higher, at 72 per cent.

Mr. Prebble said between 60 and 70 per cent of his bank's profits were made in corporate banking. "Of that, about 80 per cent is in relation to trade finance."

There are 19 domestic and 27 foreign banks operating in the UAE. They have until recently been shying away from lending small amounts of money, we took a calculated risk and went into it. We have not regretted it."

Bankers say fiercer competition will enhance retail banking products in the next year.

"I don't think there is an area of banking which will not see the introduction of new products in this market in the next 12 months," Mr. Prebble said. "As the market becomes more developed, customers will demand more sophisticated banking products."

These include telephone banking facilities, portfolio management and investment advice, widespread automated teller machines (ATM), women-only banking halls, expatriate schemes and computer-linked banking.

A centrally-linked network is also in the pipeline, allowing card holders to withdraw cash from another subscriber's ATM.

"But it will probably be two years before it goes live," Mr. Ghurair said.

Another expected development is the establishment of a stock exchange, which would bring custody business to banks. But it is unlikely to come on line for at least two years.

Meanwhile the profits of Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and other banks in the UAE could rise by a fifth or more in 1994, ADCB's chief executive has said.

Ministers let APEC leaders decide on free trade

JAKARTA (R) — Asia-Pacific ministers decided Saturday to leave their leaders to decide a timetable for freeing trade in the region, with Malaysia saying it was not alone in rejecting a proposal for a timeframe.

This vision will be decided by the summit Tuesday in nearby Bogor, Indonesian Trade and Industry Minister Hartanto told reporters at the end of the annual ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Proposals before the forum recommend trade and investment liberalisation in the region by 2020, with rich member nations such as Japan and the United States taking the lead by 2010.

Mr. Hartanto's Malaysian counterpart, Rafidah Aziz, told reporters several APEC members had expressed reservations over setting a timeframe for free trade.

"Everybody thought everybody else except for Malaysia was in favour of the timetable. But this is not the case, there are several who have reservations," said the blunt-speaking Rafidah.

"You should have been at the meeting, then you will know," she said in reply to which countries shared Malaysia's views.

Ms. Rafidah said Malaysia's stand on the timetable should not be mistaken as an objection to trade liberalisation.

"Malaysia fully supports trade liberalisation. In our (1995) budget, we disbanded tariffs on 2,600 products. This is real market liberalisation," she added.

Malaysia, which is promoting an East Asian economic grouping that could rival

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Pierce advances in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Second-seeded Mary Pierce jumped to big leads in the each set Friday and beat newcomer Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Pierce, fighting a head cold, surrendered just three points in the first three games of the first set and just four in the first three games of the second set.

"I feel I'm playing well considering how I feel," Pierce said. "It's always tough when you're not feeling well because it's hard to stay focused, and you get tired more easily."

Gabriela Sabatini struggled in the first set before settling down and beating Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-0 to reach the semifinals.

With the way I'm playing, I'm feeling good," Sabatini said. "I feel everything is there. If I keep doing the same things, I can win the tournament."

Sabatini turned a close match into a rout in the second set against Rubin.

After struggling with her serve in the first set, Sabatini held Rubin to just six service points in the second set and broke her service three times. In her first three matches, Sabatini has lost one game in the second set.

"Once I win the first set, I feel more comfortable with my game. I get more confident, and I feel good about it," Sabatini said.

Also advancing to the semifinals were No. 5 Natalia

Zvereva, who beat Brenda Schultz 6-1, 7-6, and Anke Huber, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Kimberly Po.

Tu, ranked 604th in the world, broke Pierce's serve to draw within 5-4 in the second set, but Pierce broke back with a powerful backhand at match point. Pierce has lost just 11 games in her first three matches.

The 16-year-old Tu, of Northridge, Calif., was a wild-card entrant and had played just 10 professional matches before facing the No. 5 women's player. It was the second time Tu reached the quarterfinals of a tournament.

"It was just another match — no big deal," Tu said. "If you start thinking you can't play with those players, it can get a little overwhelming. I know I can play with them."

Pierce, the top remaining seed in the tournament, went up 3-0 in the first set before Tu drew within 3-2. Pierce capitalized when Tu double-faulted on her next two service games.

Pierce next will play Zvereva, who had few problems with Schultz's powerful serve in the first set and won five of the first six points in a second-set tiebreaker.

Zvereva, who has not lost a set in the tournament, broke Schultz twice in the first set. The two stayed on serve in the second until Schultz hit into the net two give Zvereva a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

Schultz, the most powerful server on the women's tour, had 12 aces but double-

faulted at match point. Zvereva won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Huber used her relentless groundstrokes and took advantage of Po's sloppiness. Huber grabbed a 4-1 lead with a forehand smash in the second set. Three games later, she broke Po's serve for the victory.

"She made a lot of easy mistakes," Huber said. "I thought after the first set, I could win each game. I was confident I would win the match."

Huber has had perhaps the toughest route into the semifinals. She had to overcome the return of Jennifer Capriati in the first round, was stretched to three sets by local star Lisa Raymond in a match that ended near midnight and returned to beat Po Friday afternoon.

Clavet ousted Berasategui In Buenos Aires, Francisco Clavet ended six weeks of frustration against fellow Spaniard Alberto Berasategui with a 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-2 victory over the No. 1 seed in Friday's quarterfinals of the Topper South American Open.

Also reaching the semifinals were No. 3 seed Alex Corretjian of Spain, No. 5 Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic and unseeded Javier Frana of Argentina.

Berasategui had defeated Clavet in the finals of the ATP tour events in Montevideo and Santiago the previous two weeks, along with a semifinal win Athens in early October.



Mary Pierce

"It feels good to finally beat him," Clavet said. "He even beat me in backgammon last week. I was beginning to wonder if I could ever win against him."

Clavet, No. 44 in the rankings and seeded No. 8 in this tournament, has 14 of his last 17 matches, with all three losses coming to Berasategui. His win snapped Be-

rasategui's 22-match winning streak on clay in ATP tour play.

"You can't expect to keep winning forever," Berasategui said. "I hadn't lost in two months, so I was due to lose sometime."

Berasategui will be the No. 7 seed in the ATP tour world championship, starting next

Tuesday in Frankfurt, Germany. He qualified Wednesday when Michael Stich lost in the first round at Antwerp.

Corretjian advanced with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Luiz Mattar of Brazil. Novacek defeated countryman Slava Dosedel 6-1, 6-3 and Frana eliminated Juan Viloca of Spain 6-4, 6-4.

Talks to end U.S. baseball strike resume

RYE BROOK, New York (AP) — Owners reshuffled their bargaining team Thursday as U.S. Major League Baseball talks resumed, appointing Boston Red Sox Chief Executive Officer John Harrington their lead negotiator.

The move, announced by acting commissioner Bud Selig, came during the first substantive negotiating session between the parties since Sept. 9, five days before owners cancelled the World Series for the first time since 1904. Until now, Richard Ravitch had been management's head bargainer.

Management downplayed the shift in public comments, but one owner and two management officials, speaking on the condition they not be identified, said Harrington would assume the lead role of the owners' negotiating committee.

"I think John Harrington has the confidence of Bud Selig and the entire ownership," Ravitch said, "and I think that's why he was asked to be chairman of the committee."

Harrington, who called Ravitch "our chief negotiator," attended the post-meeting news conference with union head Donald Fehr and mediator W.J. Utery. Players struck Aug. 12, two-thirds of the way through the season, to protest owners' intentions to impose a limit on players salaries. The play-

ers believe the salary cap merely masks the owners' inability to share revenues between healthier large market clubs and small market teams.

The talks, which took place on the 91st day of the strike, were adjourned after five hours.

"There was a lot of candor today," said Selig, who attended the first 24 hours of meetings. "I thought there was much more civility, sensitivity than there had been in the past."

Fehr, while saying the atmosphere was still "hypercharged," was much less hostile toward owners in his public comments than he was during the summer.

"There was a lot of discussion," he said. "Whether that discussion leads anywhere remains to be seen."

It was fifth formal meeting between the sides since players struck Aug. 12 and it was the first significant one under Utery, the mediator picked by the Clinton administration Oct. 14, while he met with the sides five days later; that session merely set ground rules.

"I would characterize the meeting as very constructive, open and candid dialogue," Utery said. "There was a lot of consensus in some areas."

Asked what those areas were, Fehr said: "To the extent there was agreement, it was to say 'X' might have been done in a better way."

Dallas Cowboys, SF 49ers battle today

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers each have a disruptive defense led by a pro bowl player. Ironically, Ken Norton Jr. and Charles Haley both starred for both teams.

Norton was a pro bowl linebacker for the Cowboys before joining the 49ers as a free agent prior to this season. Defensive end Charles

Haley was traded by the 49ers to Dallas in 1992.

On Sunday, the two teams meet in a replay of the past two NFC Championship games. Dallas (8-1) won both en route to consecutive Super Bowl titles.

Haley, who will be making his fourth appearance against his former team, is hoping to increase his record to 4-2 against San Francisco (7-2).

The Cowboys enter Sunday's game with the league's top-ranked defense. San Francisco has the top-scoring offense and Steve Young leads the league in passing efficiency.

The 49ers have won three straight regular-season games between the clubs at San Francisco. But the last was in 1985 when Joe Montana passed for two touchdowns in a 31-16 victory.

Young leads the NFL with a 101.8 passing rating on 189 completions in 259 attempts for 2,138 yards and an NFC-best 16 touchdowns.

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FIFA clear Grobbelaar to play cup tie

ZURICH (AFP) — World football's ruling body, FIFA, said Friday it will not get involved in the allegations of corruption levelled at former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Grobbelaar, currently in Harare for Zimbabwe's African Nations Cup qualifier against Zaire Sunday, is alleged by Britain's Sun newspaper to have taken bribes to lose matches in the English Premiership.

Through a statement issued in London by his solicitor Thursday he emphatically denied the charges and said he was suing the newspaper.

FIFA said Friday it supported the English Football Association's decision to take no action before talking to Grobbelaar, thereby clearing him to play Sunday.

"The Football Association in London has informed FIFA that the player Bruce Grobbelaar, who has been alleged to have received bribes, will not be suspended by the FA pending a hearing with the Football Association," FIFA said in a statement issued here.

"FIFA has agreed with the FA that FIFA will not intervene in the case, pending further evidence. Thus Bruce Grobbelaar remains entitled to play for Zimbabwe in this Sunday's qualifying match."

Grobbelaar, wearing his trademark broad-brimmed black hat with a Zebra-skin band, had stepped off an Air Zimbabwe flight from London shortly after dawn Friday after lying low in Britain for two days.

Houston Rockets raise record to 5-0

BOSTON (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points as the National Basketball Association champion Houston Rockets rolled to a 102-82 rout of the Boston Celtics Friday, raising their record to a perfect 5-0.

"We have a goal which is to have the homecourt advantage in the playoffs," said Olajuwon, who scored 13 of his points in the first quarter. "Every game will help to gain ground, and that's our goal for the season."

The Celtics have opened the season with three straight losses for the first time since 1977.

The Rockets continued their early-game success by jumping to a 33-18 lead after one period. Houston has led by at least nine points after one quarter in each of its first five games.

Vernon Maxwell scored 21 points, including five three-pointers, and Robert Horry added 15 for Houston.

Dino Rajda led Boston with 31 points. Xavier McDaniel, who had 10 points, was the only other Celtic in double figures.

At Minnesota, Scottie Pippen scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Chicago Bulls maintained their perfect record against the Timberwolves with a 112-100 victory.

Minnesota, which has never beaten Chicago in 11 tries, has lost all five games under new coach Bill Blair this season.

The Bulls used a 19-5 run in the third quarter to take a commanding 74-56 lead with 4:41 left in the third quarter. The closest Minnesota came the rest of the way was a nine-point deficit early in the fourth quarter.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 26 points and Detlef Schrempf had 22, including five free throws in the last 85 seconds, as the SuperSonics held on to beat the injury-depleted Phoenix Suns 129-123.

Phoenix was playing without injured stars Charles Barkley and Kevin Johnson. Danny Manning led the Suns with 27 points and 10 rebounds and Dan Majerle had 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

The Sonics hit 10 of 21 three-point shots, including three of four by Sam Perkins, who scored 22 points.

At Utah, Latrell Sprewell scored 22 of his 30 points in the second half and Ricky Pierce scored eight points in the final 36 seconds as the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 112-104 to remain unbeaten at 4-0.

Tim Hardaway scored 30 points and Pierce finished with 21 for the Warriors, who are without injured star Chris

Mullen and holdout Chris Webber, last season's rookie of the year.

Karl Malone paced the Jazz with 25 points.

The Jazz pulled within four at 108-104 in the final minute, but Pierce sealed the victory for Golden State by hitting four free throws.

In Milwaukee, Alonzo Mourning had 24 points and 13 rebounds and Dell Curry scored 28 as the Charlotte Hornets earned their first win of the season, a 123-115 triumph over the Bucks.

Milwaukee closed within 113-110 with 1:25 left on a 7-0 run, but could get no closer.

Larry Johnson had 12 points and 16 rebounds and Hershey Hawkins chipped in 16 points for the 1-3 Hornets.

Todd Day led Milwaukee with 21 points, Marty Conlon added 20 and Johnny Newman had 19.

In Philadelphia, Jamal Mashburn and Jim Jackson each scored 22 points and rookie Jason Kidd sparked a 13-0 first-quarter run as the Dallas Mavericks beat the 76ers 105-96 in their first road game of the season.

Dallas (2-1) won just seven road games all of last season.

The Mavericks, who led all the way, held a 6-5 edge when Kidd sparked the game-breaking run with five of his 19 points. Kidd also had nine rebounds and dished out five assists.

Clarence Weatherspoon led Philadelphia, loser of four of its first five games, with 29 points.

At Washington, Calbert Cheaney scored 22 points on 10-of-14 shooting and Don Maclean had 14 of his 18 points in the second half as the Bullets beat New Jersey 104-91.

The 3-1 Bullets are off to their best start in five years. Benoit Benjamin scored 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Derrick Coleman had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who fell to 0-4 on the road this season and 1-4 overall.

The Nets jumped out to an early 11-5 lead, but trailed, 32-29 after the first quarter. Cheaney scored 15 points in the first half, hitting seven of eight field goal attempts to help the Bullets build a 59-48 halftime lead.

At Los Angeles, Robert Pack scored eight of his 22 points in overtime as the Denver Nuggets spoiled the Lakers' home opener with a 124-117 victory.

The Lakers went on a 14-2 spree in the first 6:04 of the fourth quarter, outscoring Denver 33-15 in the final period of regulation to force overtime at 105-105.

The Laker's Sedale Threatt hit a three-pointer with 19.9 seconds left in regulation to knot the game.

But the Nuggets (3-1), who were led by Bryant Stith's 23 points, scored the first six points of the overtime.

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Faisal Al Qudah

Mubarak calls for Arab reconciliation

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak called Saturday for the Arab World to patch up differences stemming from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Mubarak's appeal came just two days after the Iraqi government voted to recognise Kuwait and dropped its claim to the emirate.

"The logic of resorting to force and interference in the internal affairs of members of the Arab family undermines the concept of Arab security and violates the principle of mutual respect," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We should work for a pan-Arab reconciliation that would clear the air in the Arab World through deeds and actions," Mr. Mubarak made the comments in an address to the opening of the fall session of the 458-seat parliament.

Egypt was a major participant in the U.S.-led international alliance that liberated Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

The conflict split the Arab World between those who were seen as backing Iraq and those who supported Kuwait, and fences have not yet been mended.

This summer there were reports that Mr. Mubarak was working with leaders of the United Arab Emirates to try to end Iraq's isolation. He later denied them.

Iraq has been badly hurt by U.N. Security Council sanctions that ban oil sales and other trade until Iraq fulfils a series of conditions, including recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty.

In his hour and 45-minute speech to the Peoples Assembly, Mr. Mubarak also renewed Egypt's commitment to help advance the Middle East peace process.

But he warned that peace will remain incomplete until Israel comes to terms with Syria and Lebanon.

Egypt, the first country to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979, was a key mediator in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Jordan last month signed a peace treaty.

But talks with Syria have been hung up over Syria's demand for the return of the Golan Heights. This has held

up progress with Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria.

Mr. Mubarak also repeated Egypt's demand that the Middle East be a nuclear-free zone. Israel is the only country in the region believed to have nuclear weapons, though it has never acknowledged so publicly.

On domestic issues, Mr. Mubarak praised Egyptian security forces for cracking down on Muslim extremists who have been trying to overthrow his secular government and replace it with a fundamentalist regime.

"The Egyptian police have dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist groups and managed to disclose their hideouts and monitor their contacts inside and outside," Mr. Mubarak said. "They deserve our congratulations and respect."

Mr. Mubarak, who has been in power since the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat, was elected to a third, six-year term last year.

3 killed in clashes

Three people were killed and two wounded during renewed clashes between Muslim extremists and security forces in southern Egypt, police said.

A soldier was killed Friday in Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, during a raid by security forces on a radical hideout, said a police official.

The official said the extremists escaped. It was unclear why the victims were soldiers since police normally carry out such raids. But both men were conscripts, who are sometimes transferred to police units.

Meanwhile, suspected Muslim extremists shot and killed a suspected police informer Friday, and one bystander was killed and another wounded during a subsequent battle with police as the extremists tried to escape.

The incident happened in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. The town is a stronghold of the radicals.

The supposed informer was identified as Talaat Mahmoud Abdul Rahim. The dead bystander was identified only as a Christian.

Syria urges Israel to return Arab land

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria urged Israel Saturday to relinquish occupied Arab territories to curb mounting attacks by Palestinian extremists.

"The Israelis should draw lessons from the recurring bombings in the occupied lands and realise that the accords they have concluded, under duress, with this Arab party or that will not survive for long because of the wide gap between the contents of these agreements and Arab aspirations," the government-run Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial.

It was commenting on a suicide bombing in Gaza Friday in which three Israeli soldiers were killed and 11 people, including a Palestinian family, were wounded. The bombing was claimed by the Islamic Jihad group.

A Syrian-based Palestinian opposition group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also said that the "bloody cycle of violence" will not stop "so long as the Israeli occupation continues."

The front, which opposed Yasser Arafat's year-old self-rule accord with Israel, warned in a statement that the violence cannot be stopped "by military means or Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's orders to Arafat to wage war" against the extremists in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Tishrin reiterated Syria's position on its negotiations with Israel, which have been stalled since February, even though the Palestinians and Jordan have signed agreements with Israel in the last year.

It also demands a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and from southern Lebanon.

The Israelis have offered a phased and partial withdrawal from the Golan over several years, but hinted they could offer more if Syria denies the type of peace treaty it is willing to conclude.

Lebanon, which is controlled by Syria, cannot make peace with Israel before

South Lebanon will be no more than a waste of time and a rejected manoeuvre," Tishrin said.

"Peace is deeds, not words. Israeli officials have not yet translated their alleged peace intentions into acts and their statements relating to the Syrian track are still shrouded in ambiguity," the daily declared.

Another government newspaper, the English-language Syria Times, said: "Acts of resistance to Israeli occupation continue because the Palestinians... feel and see that nothing has changed by the signing of an accord between Israel and the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO leadership," referring to the Sept. 13, 1993, self-rule accord.

"This confirms once again that peace and occupation do not go together. One must die for the other to live and because we want peace to live, survive and last, the occupation must die," it said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday progress in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations is both possible and crucial to Middle East peace.

Without a breakthrough between Israel and Syria, "progress on the other peace tracks remains insufficient and does not fulfil the parties' commitment to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace," Mr. Mubarak told parliament here.

Mr. Mubarak said he was "convinced of the possibility of progress" on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process launched at the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the Lebanese government were "sincere and determined" in their search for peace with Israel.

More should also be done on the Palestinian track to consolidate and extend Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Mubarak added.

Future stability in the Middle East depended on cooperation in development pro-

Spanish royal couple in Jordan Valley

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor on Saturday accompanied King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain on a visit to the Jordan Valley. The Spanish royal couple arrived in Amman on Friday on a state visit to Jordan (see page one) (Photo by Yousef Allan)



Jordan will have to change laws to reflect peace — Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — In the course of implementing the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Jordan will amend some of its laws or enact new laws to be compatible with the treaty's provisions, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani has said.

In an interview broadcast by Jordan Television Friday night, Dr. Anani also said that in conformity to the implementation of the treaty Jordan and Israel have to start negotiations over the various provisions, especially on matters related to bilateral cooperation.

But, he said, priority will be given to measures pertaining to restoration of Jordan's sovereignty over its territory.

The joint committee on borders will soon meet to take the essential steps leading to the removal of barbed wires and cleaning the border areas from landmines because these measures are closely connected with Israeli troop withdrawals to the new border lines within three months, Dr. Anani said.

Demarcation of the border in its final status should be completed in nine months time, he added.

Dr. Anani said that Israel,

working upon directives from the joint committee on water, will have to start pumping water to Jordan from the Yarmouk River.

Referring to travel between the two sides, Dr. Anani said that to-date Jordanians who visited Israel made the trip through the West Bank territory and through special permits. But there is need now for a special set of arrangements to allow them to make the trip to Israel directly from Jordan, he said.

Joint committees will soon be making arrangements for such procedures to take effect in not more than one and a half months from now, he said.

Since 1967 Jordan has kept the bridges open with the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, offering the people on both sides the opportunity to travel and visit relatives, he noted.

As for now, he said, it will be more urgent for the two sides to make available further facilities for travel through new agreements that would allow free trade and travel.

Referring to the next year's economic conference in Amman, Dr. Anani said that the coming conference will build on the findings and the re-

commendations of the Casablanca conference.

He expressed belief that the Amman meeting will direct attention towards specific rather than general ideas on projects with the aim of securing Arab and foreign investors to embark on feasible projects.

Jordan has to pave the ground for investment projects through appropriate laws and regulations and practical measures which should endure because changes in legislation tend to adversely affect the climate of investments, he said.

The Jordan Valley, he said, will be developed through joint Israeli-Jordanian projects.

The major project is the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal because it entails investments in tourism industry, water and the environment.

He said that the Jordan Rift Valley is so vast that it can accommodate various projects and become an area with great agricultural potential which would attract people to settle down there.

The minister said development of the Jordan Rift Valley would take at least 10 years to complete.

Opposition accuses government of adopting 'anti-democratic' means

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties Saturday lashed out anew at the government for what they described as its anti-democratic measures that are curbing the freedom of expression and scattering hopes for the spread of democracy in the country.

Citing alleged detention of political party members and provocative actions against members of Parliament and political activists who oppose the peace treaty with Israel, 11 opposition groups said the government is not allowing the opposition any room to express itself.

In a statement issued Saturday, the 11 parties, which included the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftist and pan-Arabist groups, reiterated their right to express their views through legal and democratic means.

Meanwhile, over 500 Islamist students staged a sit-in at the University of Jordan to protest the peace treaty, and the alleged government harassment of the opposition.

The Associated Press quoted a spokesman for the Islamist-dominated students council as saying the government has "crossed the red line" by preventing the opposition from expressing its views in legal ways.

The focus by the opposition parties and the students on the lack of freedom of expression was seen by observers as an indication of the "unsatisfactory" policy the government has adopted in its quest for having the treaty finalised without "trouble."

The opposition parties have accepted that the peace treaty with Israel is a political reality and they will not resort to violence to abort it, observers say. Accordingly, they said, the opposition's anger is more at the "restrictive

atmosphere" that the government has spread rather than on the signing of the treaty.

In a column published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Thursday, IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush reiterated assertions that the opposition will not jeopardise the stability of the country in its battle against peace with Israel.

"We know that violence will mean destruction for all," he said, adding that now that the treaty has been finalised, "we have to bless any positive developments" and work for the benefit of the country and the people.

But Dr. Omoush criticised what he called the "inappropriate performance" of the government in the days since the signing of the treaty, urging a "search for a new government" that can face the new era and its challenges.

As did the opposition parties, Dr. Omoush criticised the "bias" in the government media in favour of the official point of view.

Instead of focusing on the usual call for fighting peace with Israel, the opposition's statement Saturday warned against the implications of the alleged continued governmental encroachment on democratic rights.

The parties urged the people to protect the democratic march and stand up against the alleged government violation of freedom, saying that "democracy cannot be established unless freedoms are protected."

Independent observers agreed that the government has been following unnecessary restrictive procedures since the signing of the peace treaty.

Stressing that there is enough support for the peace treaty, observers questioned

(Continued on page 7)

Jordanian girl dies before marrow transplant in Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The body of Heba Shabaan, a 12-year-old Jordanian girl who died in an Israeli hospital before she could undergo bone-marrow transplant, was laid to rest near her family home in Zarqa Saturday.

Heba died late of massive internal bleeding in the chest and lungs late Friday, a few days before she was to receive a bone-marrow transplant from her 10-month-old brother Mohammad, who was the only family member whose bone marrow matched hers, according to doctors at the Hadassah hospital in occupied Jerusalem.

Friends and relatives attended the funeral. Her father, Rushdie Shabaan, wept throughout the funeral and repeatedly threw himself on the coffin, the Associated Press reported from the scene.

"Peace came too late for Heba," the agency reported, referring to the family's appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Oct. 27, one day after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty. Mr. Rabin had responded immediately, ordering his government to admit Heba to an

Mohammad, had arrived at the Hadassah hospital on Monday after tests proved the compatibility of bone marrow of the siblings.

The transplant, which is not available in Jordan, was the only way to save the girl, who suffered from a severe disorder which retards the human body's ability to produce blood cells, leaving the patient vulnerable to infection or sudden bleeding.

The transplant had been scheduled for this week after preliminary treatment was completed, reports from Israel said.

Professor Shimon Slavin, head of the bone-marrow transplant centre at the hospital, said Heba was being prepared for the transplant when the girl "all of a sudden had major bleeding in both lungs and chest."

"The medical teams were there but there was no chance of resuscitating her because it was impossible to control the internal bleeding," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

He added that doctors had discovered that the girl had "fancony's anaemia," a genetic disease which affects all body cells, and not aplastic anaemia as originally diagnosed. Aplastic anaemia is limited to bone marrow.

Mr. Shabaan, as he started his journey back home, told

Queen Mum is not dead: BBC apologises

LONDON (AFP) — The BBC apologised to Buckingham Palace after it reported wrongly, for a few seconds, that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, had died.

Late morning, a one-line news flash appeared on the BBC's Ceefax text news service — written summaries of news events presented on screen — claiming that the 94-year-old mother of the reigning queen Elizabeth II had passed away. Buckingham Palace and Clarence House, the "Queen Mum's" London home, were flooded with viewers' calls and had to issue a string of denials. An embarrassed BBC spokesman said Friday that an internal inquiry was already underway into how the pre-written text announcing the death of one of the most popular members of the royal family had been broadcast.

"One line from a rehearsal script was on screen for literally a few seconds," he said. The queen mother, who has become increasingly frail in the last few years, recently sprained her foot and will miss Armistice Day ceremonies Sunday held to mark the end of World War I. However her spokesman said Friday she was now "very much better" and quite well.

Last year, Australian television and radio stations reported her death after an employee of the Sky Television Broadcasting Group in London saw a prepared announcement of her death, and, thinking it was the real thing, phoned his mother in Australia with the news.

Da Vinci manuscript sold for \$30.8m

NEW YORK (AFP) — Bill Gates, founder and president of the Microsoft computer corporation, was the mystery buyer who paid \$30.8 million for an illustrated manuscript by Leonardo Da Vinci, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported Saturday. A source at the firm that handles Mr. Gates' public relations, Wagener-Edstrom Company, confirmed that Mr. Gates had been the buyer of the 72-page manuscript last owned by the late industrialist Armand Hammer. The source, who spoke anonymously, said only, "Leonardo represents the fusion of art and science... I think that's why he is of such interest to Bill Gates." He said the manuscript would be exhibited around the world.

The document by the Renaissance artist and inventor was auctioned off Friday in New York by Christie's America, which refused to identify the new owner whose bid had come by telephone. Mr. Gates' bid was the highest price ever paid at auction for a manuscript or book.

The manuscript dates from 1508 to 1510 and was handwritten by Da Vinci in his "mirror" writing.

Japan's great Buddha defaced in graffiti attack

TOKYO (R) — Vandals painted red ribs and nipples on the great Buddha of Kamakura, a popular tourist site and one of Japan's designated national treasures, police said Saturday. The unprecedented graffiti attack on the 11.4 metre-high (34 ft) statue was discovered early Friday morning by a priest from the Kotokuin Temple at Kamakura, 30 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, police said.

The great Buddha, a seated image of the Buddha Amitayus built in 1252, also had its fingernails painted red.

Oregon measure on suicide passes

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon has become the only place in the nation that lets doctors hasten death for the terminally ill. Measure 16 on Tuesday's ballot passed 52 per cent to 48 per cent Thursday. Not all the absentee ballots were counted, but both sides said they do not expect the margin to change when the tally is completed. Measure 16 will allow a patient with six months to live